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LD141406 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Police arrested 22 suspects after Molotov cocktails were thrown at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem 13 December, Jerusalem radio reported. No one was hurt in the attack, which police attributed to a local "terrorist gang." As for the disturbances in the occupied territories that day, the radio said thousands of youths were on the streets of the Gaza Strip, seeking to attack Israeli vehicles. Two IDF soldiers and four residents were wounded in the Strip, the radio said, while three Israeli soldiers, an Israeli civilian, and a local resident were injured during disturbances in Hebron. Seven Gaza residents were wounded by IDF fire the previous day, according to the radio. As for the casualties at the Balatah refugee camp on 11 December, the radio disclosed that 3 demonstrators were killed and 11 were wounded by Border Police, who opened fire after being surrounded.

The disturbances were discussed during the 13 December Cabinet meeting, IDF radio noted, adding that several ministers, including Ari'el Sharon, criticized the state media coverage of the events in the territories. A Cabinet communique broadcast by Jerusalem television stressed that the IDF remains in full control of the situation, deploring "greatly exaggerated" descriptions of the unrest, which it viewed as the result of "terrorism waged by the minority." The commander of the IDF Central Command likewise told the television that the disturbances are "definitely not" a civil uprising, asserting that the majority of people in Judaea and Samaria want to live peacefully but are prevented from this by "extremist elements."

In Egypt, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid sent a note to his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres calling on Israel to stop using force against Palestinian civilians, MENA reported. For the PLO's part, the "Occupied Homeland Committee" met in Baghdad 13 December to discuss ways to support and escalate the "uprising" against the Israeli occupation, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported, noting that the session was chaired by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Lebanon

Israeli Military Preparations—Beirut radio reported a state of "expectation and alert" in Lebanon in light of Israeli military preparations, adding that 6,000 IDF soldiers equipped with over 300 vehicles have moved into the south since the Qiryat Shemona operation. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, Israel is massing a large armored force near Metulla, and Hizballah has cancelled a military training course as a precaution against an Israeli attack. At a 13 December Hizballah parade in Ba'labakk, the commander of Iran's IRGC units in Lebanon called for an intensification of attacks against Israeli forces, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Hizballah's naval arm was behind the 10 December attack on an Israeli naval boat near the Lebanese coast, Jerusalem television noted.

Other Developments—Syrian troops arrested around 300 people in the northern Al-Kurah area following the killing of a Syrian soldier, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The radio cited an AFP report that 44 Syrian soldiers have been killed in Lebanon since the deployment of Syrian troops in West Beirut in February, adding that the PLO's Force 17 is backing the attacks on the Syrians.

As for the foreign hostages, AL-SHIRA' predicted that a U.S. hostage will be released shortly because his health has deteriorated dangerously and his kidnappers' demands have been met, according to the Voice of Lebanon. The radio also announced that an Iranian envoy arrived in Beirut 11 December to discuss the hostages issue with Hizballah leaders.

Gulf War

Shipping Attacks—The 232,000-ton Cypriot tanker "Pivot" was set on fire in a 12 December attack by an Iranian speedboat in the southern Gulf, Nicosia radio reported, noting that the incident occurred 16 km from the Iranian base on Abu Musa Island. The ship was badly holed, but the fire on board was eventually brought under control, AFP noted. Reporting on the attack by "a gunboat" on the "Pivot," Tehran radio noted that the Saudi oil carried by the tanker was "gushing" from the vessel and burning.

In further reportage on the fate of an Iranian tanker hit by Iraqi warplanes 9 and 10 December, INA cited a Lloyds report that 10 crewmen were killed in the second attack, which forced the other sailors to abandon the ship.

Other Military Developments—Iranian planes bombed Iraqi artillery positions in the Al-'Amarah area 12 December, Iran announced in a communique reported by IRNA.

In Beirut, AL-SHIRA' claimed that the PRC is planning to sell Iran 300 additional Silkworm missiles, KYODO noted.

Iran on Bahrain Stinger Sale—A 14 December Tehran radio commentary on the proposed U.S. sale of Stingers to Bahrain warned that "regimes such as Bahrain's are too small to remain optimistic about their future security under U.S. support while they continue their policy of supporting U.S. forces and helping the enemies of Islam." Governments of the "Persian Gulf coast" should take the "growing trend of Islamic movements" into consideration and "stop hanging on the rotten rope" of U.S. support, the radio said.

OPEC Meeting in Vienna

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh left Vienna 14 December, saying he was returning to Tehran to consult his government on the tentative agreement on prices and production levels formulated at the OPEC meeting, AFP reported. The agency noted that the conclusion of a final agreement has been delayed by differences between Iran and Arab Gulf states, mainly over prices. Aqazadeh told reporters before leaving that Iran has not yet decided to support the draft accord, which would set a new production ceiling but would leave the benchmark price unchanged.

Iran-Pakistan

Commenting on the results of a 3-day visit to Pakistan, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Tehran radio that the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding and a border agreement. The memorandum formulates aspects of economic cooperation in a more practical way, he said, while the border agreement will solve current problems of smuggling and the "secret passage of unauthorized persons." An Iranian oil delegation will visit Pakistan, and the latter will send an industrial delegation to Tehran, he added. Velayati's talks with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq covered bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan, and other important international issues, the radio noted.

King Husayn on Peace Negotiations

Amman radio broadcast the text of an interview with Jordan's King Husayn in which he said that he rejected a proposal for a Jordanian-Israeli summit on the sidelines of the superpower summit in Washington. Husayn told the Beirut paper AL-SAFIR that "we rejected it because it cannot be an alternative to the international conference" and because such a meeting would discuss "phased arrangements" rather than the overall solution sought by the Arabs. Asked about reports that he has held secret contacts with Israel, Husayn stressed that the only place, sphere, and framework for any negotiations with Israel is an international conference.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Husayn Gulf Tour—King Husayn toured Gulf states over the weekend to "enhance the march of joint Arab solidarity and follow up the positive results of the historic Amman summit," Amman television reported. AL-RA'Y said the king's tour was aimed at emphasizing the "indivisibility of Arab security and the joint responsibility of all Arabs to defend any Arab country that is the target of aggression." Husayn held talks with the leaders of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and Oman, according to reports by Amman radio and television.

Egypt-Kuwait—Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah arrived in Kuwait 14 December at the head of a military delegation, KUNA reported. An Egyptian paper cited by MENA indicated that Abu Ghazalah's talks with Kuwaiti leaders will focus on military cooperation between the two countries.

Syria-Iraq—The Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN reported that a Syrian intelligence chief and a senior Iraqi security official recently held talks aimed at removing obstacles to the normalization of relations, according to QNA. In his AL-SAFIR interview carried by Amman radio, King Husayn maintained that the road is clear for meetings at the highest level between Syria and Iraq, not necessarily with Jordan's mediation.

PDRY

The Supreme Court concluded the trial of persons held responsible for the "bloody conspiracy" of 13 January 1986, Aden radio reported, noting that the accused were convicted on charges of treason, terrorism, and sabotage. The court sentenced 16 prisoners to death by firing squad, and passed death sentences in absentia on former PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 18 other fugitives. The radio also listed the names of 65 prisoners and 20 fugitives who received varying prison terms, and of 17 other persons who were amnestied or acquitted. Reviewing the events of January 1986, the court disclosed that 4,330 people were killed.

In exile in the YAR, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad told the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD that the sentences have "finally closed the door" to mediation efforts to achieve Yemeni unity, according to KUNA. He appealed to friends inside and outside Yemen to stop the implementation of the sentences, which he viewed as "a new massacre." Before the conclusion of the trial on 12 December, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had appealed to PDRY leaders to "reconsider and postpone" the sentences, Sanaa radio noted.

Libya

Chadian Accusations Denied—In a statement carried by Tripoli television 12 December, the Foreign Liaison Bureau denied Chadian President Hissein Habre's accusations that Libyan forces are preparing to attack Chad from across the Sudanese border. Habre is a "liar" who cannot visit France without charging that Libya is about to invade or without "fabricating" reports on violations of his country's air space, the statement asserted, and it reaffirmed Libya's "absolute right to take every precaution to protect its security." According to SUNA, Sudanese State Council member 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, who discussed bilateral relations with the Chadian president in Paris, reiterated Sudan's denial that "any foreign troops" are present on Sudanese territory.

In a related development, the French ambassador was summoned to receive a note protesting his government's decision to supply additional weapons to Chad and denouncing the move as an "exacerbation" of the situation which threatens security in the area.

Al-Qadhdhafi Address—In an address to the opening session of a pan-Arab conference of opposition parties carried by Tripoli television 12 December, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed the "fundamental issue" of Arab unity and the related question of "liberating Palestine." In detailing the "excuses" which revolutionary Arab governments cite for not addressing these problems, the Libyan leader noted that the controversy over Western Sahara is an "obstacle" to Maghreb unity. He also singled out the Gulf war, the recognition of "traitorous" Egypt, and the matter of convening an international conference on the Mideast as "bombs" which "scatter the Arabs in every direction."

Sudan

In remarks cited by SUNA 13 December, the Central Region governor acknowledged that government troops have "withdrawn" from the Qaysan area and are preparing "to restore the position." The agency quoted military reports that Ethiopian troops and other foreigners participated in the battle for Qaysan and that over 600 rebels were killed in action 9 December. An AL-JARIDAH report cited by National Unity Radio also charged that Ethiopian forces accompanied SPLA troops who crossed the border to attack the Sudanese military as well as peaceful villages. The rebels are using "the most modern weapons" with the assistance of Soviet, Cuban, and East German "experts," the report asserted.

Tunisia

Relations With Libya—Diplomatic relations with Libya may be resumed before the end of the year, Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri announced in remarks to Paris radio 13 December. Mestiri was optimistic on the negotiations with Libya and predicted that "things will get back to normal." At the end of a 4-day visit, Libyan special envoy Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi praised Tunisia's "sincere intention" to strengthen bilateral relations and revealed that joint committees are discussing increased cooperation in the "economic, commercial, industrial, and labor spheres," Tripoli television reported. During his stay, the Libyan envoy held talks with President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche as well as the ministers of defense and interior, Tunis radio noted.

Constitution Revision Studied—Prime Minister Baccouche chaired a 10 December meeting of political leaders and selected high-level officials to discuss legal aspects of revising the constitution in light of President Ben Ali's 7 November statement, Tunis radio reported, noting that opposition leaders termed the meeting a "very positive precedent."

Afghanistan

Ten people were killed and 34 wounded when surface-to-surface missiles and mortar rounds fired by "criminals" hit residential areas in Meymaneh, Faryab Province, Kabul radio reported 12 December.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq-Syria Meeting Reportedly Held on Border

JN140817 Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec (QNA)—Press reports published here today said that a Syrian-Iraqi meeting was held on the border between the two countries a few days ago to remove obstacles to the normalization of relations between the two countries. AL-WATAN reported that the Syrian side was led by 'Ali Duba, chief of intelligence, and the Iraqi side was led by a senior security official. Intensive efforts are currently under way to normalize relations between the two countries, particularly after the extraordinary Amman summit during which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Phone Links Resumed

JN141237 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] It was learned in Damascus today that telephone links between Damascus and Baghdad were resumed following a hiatus of 7 years; that is, since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war.

Bashir Ba'li, director of Syria's Civil Aviation Authority, and Husayn Mahfuz, director of Damascus airport, have been in Baghdad for 4 days to study the resumption of flights between the two countries.

Kuwaiti Minister Questioned on Arab Aid

JN101004 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Dec 87 pp 1, 23

[Excerpts] Amman—The 48th session of the Arab Economic Unity Council has issued the secretary general's annual economic report, which analyzes the general economic indicators in the Arab homeland. The Council also elected Dr Hani al-Khasawinah as secretary general of the Council for 5 years beginning 1 May 1988. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question by AL-DUSTUR on whether the Kuwaiti Government would reconsider the subject of financial aid to the frontline states, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim al-Khurafi asserted: These matters were decided at the Amman Arab summit and we at the Finance Ministry only do what we are asked.

With regard to joint Arab action, Al-Khurafi said: We wish that we could concentrate on the mechanisms of joint action, for I believe they require continuous support if the ambitions for joint Arab action are to be fulfilled. Therefore, we must tackle the affairs of these institutions and mechanisms frankly and sincerely so that we can use these mechanisms to fulfill our ambitions.

Commenting on Kuwait's payment of its contributions to the budgets of Arab organizations, Al-Khurafi said that Kuwait is not awaiting the results of the eight-man committee, which was charged with assessing joint Arab economic action. He stated that Kuwait wants instead to see if all the other states will fulfill their financial commitments.

Kuwaiti Labor Minister Reviews Conference

LD101846 Kuwait KUNA in English 1615 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 10 (KUNA)—Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad said here Thursday that the Arab social affairs and labor ministers have endorsed, at their recent meeting, 26 resolutions, including one condemning the repeated Iranian aggressions on Kuwait.

In a statement to KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY (KUNA) after taking part in the 8th two-day meeting of the Council of Arab Social Affairs and Labor Ministers held in Tunis December 8 that especialized Arab organizations have agreed to exempt certain Arab countries from paying their financial contributions in consideration of the economic and political situation in those states. [sentence as received]

He added that the Secretariat of the Council was assigned with working out the terms and principles for subsidizing the social projects proposed by member states with the aim of developing social action. The conferees have initially agreed to form a permanent Arab committee within the framework of the Arab League to take care of Arab child and childhood, Shaykh Jabir said. The minister also said that the social affairs and labor ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council will be held as scheduled on next January 11. He expressed hope that the meeting will result in more coordination over several important issues in interest of the people of the region.

Telecommunications Conference Opens in Syria

JN122040 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Damascus—Under the chairmanship of Mahmud Qaddur, [Syrian] deputy prime minister for services affairs, the 15th conference of the Arab Telecommunications Union opened today. The conference's opening session was attended by a number of ministers, their aides, director generals of related companies, and heads and members of the fraternal Arab delegations participating in the conference. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Statements by PLO's 'Arafat

On Support for Kuwait

JN131400 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 10 Dec 87 p 15

[Article by Yusuf 'Alawinah]

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declared that the Palestinians will always be

grateful to Kuwait. He said the name Al-'Asifah [Fatah's military wing] is based on the Al-Sulaybikhat coast [in Kuwait]. 'Arafat reported that he told the amir the Palestinians are prepared to give their blood and lives for Kuwait, adding: This is the least that can be done for Kuwait. 'Arafat said the first commander of the Palestine Liberation Army was from the Kuwaiti Army. He affirmed that the Palestinian forces are at the amir's command and that the amir can dispose of them any time he pleases, however he pleases.

'Arafat said he was in Sofia when the Iraq-Iran war broke out. He then went to meet with Khomeyni and the Iranian leaders. Khomeyni told him it was Iran that had begun the war and that he [Khomeyni] had promulgated that the war is religiously permissible and legal. 'Arafat linked this story with Iranian attacks on the Iraqi border. He said President Saddam had asked him to mediate to stop Iranian provocations. 'Arafat stated that he had asked former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to stop such provocations. He said that Ahmad Khomeyni, President Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Modarresi followed him when he left Imam Khomeyni and said to him: The Iranian people love you. A religious edict [fatwa] has been promulgated to fight and we want you to support us.

'Arafat reported that he had refused and said there can be no religious edict permitting the shedding of Muslim blood. He added: If you were looking for an 'Alqami [a pre-Islamic figure known for his sycophancy], I am not 'Alqami.

'Arafat maintained that support for Kuwait is an Islamic stand because continuation of the war is not in the interest of Muslims but serves the big powers who want Muslims to kill each other. Addressing the Iranian leaders, 'Arafat said: Enough bloodshed, if the goal is Palestine.

'Arafat noted that the present times are difficult. He said that he has appealed to his brothers and beloved at the religious seminary in Qom: Enough, enough, enough. He asserted that if there are problems between us, then Islam is our arbiter. 'Arafat then referred to the various mediation attempts to end the war, foremost among which is Resolution 598.

'Arafat recalled the 1982 siege of Beirut at the peak of the Israeli invasion. He said that after 8 years of the war it is his right to reveal that Iraq told him at the time it was prepared to withdraw its forces from Iran and dispatch them to Lebanon to participate in the fighting. He said 24 hours later Iran informed him, through the Iranian ambassador, that Iran's Supreme Defense Council had agreed to the appeal and had decided to end the war and that Iran was prepared to immediately dispatch a division to fight in Lebanon. He said Iran had declared: We will quickly send 5,000 Revolutionary Guards by air and we want your help to obtain the Turkish Government's agreement to allow the volunteers to pass through Turkish territory. 'Arafat added: I did in fact obtain Turkey's approval but circumstances prevented the fighters from participating in the fighting.

'Arafat said that 72 hours later the Iranian ambassador came to him and told him that a decision had been made by the highest authorities to resume the fighting against Iraq. He noted that this is recorded in documents of which there are copies at the religious seminary in Qom. 'Arafat added: Iran lost a golden opportunity to liberate Jerusalem. 'Arafat also assailed Iranian preparations to attack northeast of Basra with 375,000 soldiers stationed on the border.

'Arafat recalled cherished memories and related how in the middle 1960's and earlier he had begun from this good land his long journey of working for Palestine. As a mark of gratitude, Fatah yesterday hosted a ceremony in honor of a number of Kuwaiti figures who had supported Fatah from its inception to the present, foremost among whom is Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister . The ceremony was held last night and was attended by many personalities.

Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, Fatah Central Committee member, delivered a speech in which he reviewed the march of the Palestinian movement in the late 1940's and the 1950's and the continuing upsurge that began in Al-Sulaybikhat in Kuwait. Abu al-Adib paid tribute to Kuwaitis who had supported the Palestinian revolution and who later joined the popular fund raising committee chaired by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saqr, and Yusuf al-Khalij. He thanked the heir apparent for attending the ceremony and recalled his stand during the regrettable September [1970] events, adding: The Palestinian revolution cannot forget that he risked his life. [passage omitted]

Addresses 'Heroic Masses'

JN111127 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1756 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Announcer-read "text" of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's 10 December message to the people in the occupied territories]

[Text] O sons of our proud people, O our heroic masses in our occupied homeland, O heroic sons of the Gaza Strip, O proud sons of the [West] Bank, O heroic sons of Galilee, O steadfast sons of the Negev: Our usurping enemy is waging its most violent repressive and criminal campaign against you. The campaign began against our heroic kinfolk in steadfast Gaza and spread to all the steadfast Strip and then to the proud and courageous West Bank. It thought that with such bestial practices against out steadfast people it would be able to quench the spirit of the revolution and put out the flame of Palestinian sacrifice and the spirit of struggle in our militant and proud people. We are sure, as we have

always been, that the fires of revolution against these Zionist invaders will not fade out in the face of their injustice, terrorism, and occupation until our land—all of our land—has been liberated from these usurping invaders.

O our kinfolk, O our beloved, O men, women, and children of our people, O makers of the epics of heroism and sacrifice: The escalation of the Zionist campaigns against you is the real expression of the enemy leaders' loss of their tempers and balance in the face of your firmness, steadfastness, struggle, and heroism—the children of stones in our beloved, holy country. This is the living example of what you and your revolution have achieved. This is a new epic, a new and real victory despite all the contradictory claims of the Zionist leaders, which daily reveals their weakness in the face of this miracle and steadfastness. This is an admission of their failure today as they admitted their failure in Lebanon. They thought that their invasion of Lebanon would end the PLO, end the Palestinian revolution, and destroy its infrastructure. What was the outcome?

Rabin admitted today: Our forces in Lebanon now are greater than in 1982. In association with our faithful Lebanese allies, we are disturbing the enemies in the occupied Galilee. Here they are the heroes, revolutionaries, and strugglers of our Palestinian people attacking the enemy troops on every inch of our occupied land.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Behold! God promised you one of the two enemy parties, that it should be yours: Ye wished that the one unarmed should be yours, but God willed to justify the truth according to His words, and to cut off the roots of the unbelievers that he might justify truth and prove falsehood false, distasteful though it be to those in guilt. [Koranic verse] We have pledged to you and to ourselves that we will not rest and that we will continue resistance until our homeland is liberated. We will do this together inside and outside our occupied land. We will make a miracle and offer sacrifices so that our history may be written with luminous letters and so that our people will achieve their firm, inalienable national rights. These rights will not be attained through a favor. Rather, we will extricate our right through our blood and souls—our right to the establishment of our free, independent state on Palestinian territory with Jerusalem as its capital.

O heroes who are defending Jerusalem, the most sacred place in our holy land, you have proved and continue to prove to the enemy and to the whole world that our people daily extricate their existence and freedom from the aggressor's paws and that they offer dear sacrifices through their souls and blood for the homeland. It is through our souls and blood that we will continue the path leading to freedom and to our independent state.

O sons of our proud people, the dawn of victory is coming. Strengthen your determination and intensify the blows to the occupying enemy. Teach the enemy successive lessons. Let those who are heavily armed know that our bodies are stronger than their iron and that this revolution erupted to achieve victory and to impose its victory despite all conspiracies and plotters. Let these invaders know that there will be no stability, no peace, and no solution in the region but the Palestinian peace through the achievement of our people's firm national rights. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God made it but a message of hope and an assurance to your hearts: There is no help except from God; and God is exalted in power, wise. [Koranic verse]

Let all of us struggle in closed ranks and side by side until the banners of freedom, the banners of Palestine, are hoisted on the Strip and on the courageous Bank and also on the minarets and churches of Jerusalem. Our date with victory is coming, God willing. Morning is their time appointed: Is not the morning nigh? [Koranic verse] If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse] There is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse] Revolution until victory!

[Signed] Your brother, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]

Holds Kuwait News Conference

LD111527 Kuwait KUNA in English 1301 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 11 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Friday criticized U.S. President Ronald Reagan for neglecting the rights of the Palestinian people and poured praise on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for committing to his country's position in support of the Palestinian cause and rights. In a press conference at Dasman Guest House, 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Kuwait, said Reagan has ignored, during his summit with Gorbachev, the rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and has avoided talks about the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war. 'Arafat also said "I have been glad because of the differences between the two superpowers on the Middle East, and had a fear that they might reach an agreement on concessions regarding our legitimate rights and the cause of the Arab nation."

He added that the American stance toward the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East is still unchanged, pointing out that it is the U.S. Administration which is adopting that position even without any pressure from the Zionist lobby.

'Arafat ruled out the possibility that the U.S.-Soviet summit would be able to solve Arab causes "by a magic stick" and emphasized that the Arab nation should be able to defend its interests and lands whether in the occupied Arab territories, the Gulf or south Lebanon. He further said that after the summit, contacts would be conducted to get acquainted with the details of the meetings and that a meeting at the level of Arab foreign ministers should be held to [words indistinct] developments that might take place after the superpower summit.

The Palestinian leader said he plans to call for a meeting for the preparatory committee of the international conference that has been approved by the U.N. adding that the U.S. does not have the veto right against that committee. He also said that there is another idea which is "calling for a meeting for the Security Council which can stand as a preparatory committee for the international conference."

On the Iran-Iraq war, 'Arafat reiterated his call for an Arab or Islamic or non-aligned or even international force to stop that conflict. He added that if the Islamic states had approved that idea at their Casablanca summit things would not have reached to such a situation. He stressed that the extraordinary Arab summit conference, held in Amman last month, had not adopted any resolution on making contacts with the Iranian side, but it condemned Iran for its continued aggressions on the Arab territories.

'Arafat said he met with ambassadors in Kuwait of four permanent member states of the Security Council and informed them about the uprising in the occupied territories and the Israeli crimes being committed there. The U.S. ambassador here has received a message from him through the Italian ambassador, 'Arafat said. He added that the PLO held urgent contacts with the European Parliament, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity and Latin American and Asian countries and briefed them on the Israeli practices in the occupied territories and urged them to embark on an effective role concerning this issue.

'Arafat further said that he contacted officials at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, in the capacity of Kuwait as the current president of the Organization of Islamic Conference and has met with the Egyptian ambassador because Egypt is internationally and legally responsible for Gaza Strip.

On the U.S. Administration's decision to close down the Palestine Information Bureau in Washington, the PLO chairman stressed that "President Reagan and other American officials should understand that no one can shield the sunlight with his hands." He added that as Washington had recognized China after 25 years, a day will come when it recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to live in their independent state.

On the Palestinian-Jordanian relations, 'Arafat said at his meeting with King Husayn of Jordan during the Amman summit last month they agreed to reactivate the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to consolidate the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He disclosed that the committee will hold a meeting in Amman next Wednesday, particularly after King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia has extended a financial support of 10 million dollars to the committee. He also disclosed that another meeting between political delegations from both Jordan and the PLO will be held late this month.

He hailed the reopening of the PLO offices in Cairo by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

On the Libyan-Palestinian relations, 'Arafat pointed out that Libya has a firm and sincere stance toward the aggressions on the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

As for the Syrian-Palestinian relations, 'Arafat said the Syrian president had blessed the agreement reached in Sidon concerning the camps war, adding that there are constant contacts and coordination in face of the Israeli threats against the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Syrians.

Further on News Conference

JN111803 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has stressed that a Palestinian-Jordanian meeting will be held in Amman during the last week of December. This meeting will be preceded by a meeting in Amman of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee for supporting Palestinian steadfastness in the occupied territories.

Abu 'Ammar, who is currently on a visit to Kuwait, stressed in a press conference that Palestinian-Egyptian relations have returned to normal after the recent reopening of the PLO offices in Cairo. He pointed out that the visit which a PLO delegation, led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], is currently paying to Cairo is designed to bolster bilateral relations.

Answering a question on the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, which concluded yesterday in Washington, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We did not expect this summit to solve all the problems. We must, undoubtedly, be entitled to defend our rights and our Arab lands. Brother Abu 'Ammar called, at least, for convening an Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the outcome of this summit and the Arab summit. Brother Abu 'Ammar criticized the U.S. President, saying: At a time when Reagan talks about human rights, he ignores the Palestinians and strongly sides with the Zionists. Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the idea of an international Middle East peace conference enjoys world unanimity. It is only opposed by the Zionist entity and the United States.

With regard to the Palestinian uprising, which covers the occupied land, Abu 'Ammar said that he had asked Algeria, a UN Security Council member, to discuss the possibility of convening a UN Security Council session to discuss the massacres the Zionists are perpetrating against the Palestinians. He held contacts on various Arab, Islamic, African, and nonaligned levels to make moves in this regard. He referred to some of the occupation forces' practices such as besieging the Al-Aqsa Mosque early today to prevent the holding of prayers

there. He added that the strikes and demonstrations in the occupied territories are escalating to protest the Zionist occupation authorities' savage practices against Palestinians. Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed: We do not fight for the sake of war but for attaining a political goal.

Leaves Kuwait 11 Dec

LD112028 Kuwait KUNA in English 1910 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 11 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left here today ending a three-day official visit to the country. 'Arafat held talks, during his stay here, with Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and senior Kuwaiti officials. The talks focused on Palestinian, regional and international developments.

Calls for 'Urgent' Meeting

JN121058 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1033 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called for an urgent meeting of the occupied homeland committee in Baghdad to discuss the deteriorating situation inside occupied Palestine. A responsible Palestinian source told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the committee, which is chaired by Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, is expected to meet within the next few hours. The committee's meeting takes place in the wake of reports on the repressive operations practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens—operations that resulted in the death of many Palestinians.

The Palestinian source added that 'Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad last night, continued his efforts until an early hour this morning to call on the UN Security Council to hold an urgent meeting to discuss the deteriorating situation in the occupied territory. The source added that the Arab group in New York has adopted the PLO's call and agreed to present a request for holding an urgent meeting of the Security Council in the immediate future. The WAKH correspondent has also learned that 'Arafat is following up in Baghdad the developments in the occupied territory and is continuing contacts with many Arab and international parties to end the massacres inside the occupied territory.

Sends Message to Mitterrand

JN121731 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] On Thursday, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, sent an urgent message to French President Francois Mitterrand on the serious developments in the occupied Arab territories. This occurred when the brother commander in chief received the French ambassador at his place of residence in Kuwait on the evening of 10 December.

WAFA has learned that in his message to the French president, Brother Abu 'Ammar explained the seriousness of the repressive Israeli practices, as well as the massacres the Zionist occupation authorities are perpetrating in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In his message, Brother Abu 'Ammar also urged the French president to launch a French move to defend the rights of the Palestinians who are facing the most barbaric onslaughts as a result of their confrontation of occupation. These rights are part of the legitimate Palestinian rights. Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the brother commander in chief for information affairs, attended the meeting.

On 'Uprising' in Territories

JN131315 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Dec 87

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has announced that the Palestinian people have offered 22 martyrs in their great uprising against the Israeli occupation over the past 5 days. 'Arafat told a group of Arab and international news agency and radio correspondents last night that the reports he has received from inside the occupied territories affirm that the overwhelming uprising has so far covered 16 towns and camps in occupied Palestine. He said that in their unarmed resistance, the Palestinian people have offered 196 martyred or wounded, in addition to the toll of the past 2 months—98 martyred or wounded. 'Arafat accused the Israeli occupation authorities of implementing a bloody plan known as "the iron fist for killing the sons of the Palestinian people." He said that the incident announced by Israel on 7 December of the killing of four Palestinians and the injury of nine others in Gaza was a premeditated Israeli attack, intended as a beginning for the ongoing massacre.

Speaking at the operations room of his residence in Baghdad, 'Arafat expected the uprising to continue. He said: The sons of the heroic Palestinian people will continue to resist the Zionist enemy's plans against our kinfolk inside the occupied land. 'Arafat said that there are still possibilities of a new Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, adding that Israel has massed 40-60,000 troops for this purpose. In order to implement its aggression, he expected Israel to resort to one of three possibilities:

1. An invasion of southern Lebanon of the scale of the 1978 invasion;

2. An operation of a (?special) nature; or

3. A hammer blow by the artillery, Air Force, and Navy.

'Arafat reported that the PLO is monitoring all Israeli moves in this regard. He affirmed that the PLO will continue its political contacts with the UN Security Council members to issue a resolution condemning the Israeli terrorism against unarmed citizens. He said he is seeking a UN Security Council resolution condemning the U.S.-backed Israeli terrorism, in which U.S. weapons are being used, to safeguard the Palestinian people and to halt the massacre through practical measures.

'Arafat said the PLO has guaranteed the support of 13 of the 15 members of the Security Council for the required resolution. However, he did not rule out a U.S. veto to prevent the condemnation of Israel. Earlier, 'Arafat called on the leaders of the Soviet Union, the PRC, and France to intervene to halt the massacres of the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation authorities. During his meeting with the Soviet charge d'affaires and the Chinese and the French ambassadors last night, 'Arafat asked them to convey urgent messages to their countries' leaders in this regard.

'Arafat said that he intends to address a message to the U.S. Administration asking about Washington's use of human rights as a slogan while it ignores the Palestinian people's right to live in peace on their land. He said he will deliver this message to the Italian ambassador in Baghdad later today to convey it to the U.S. Government.

Responding to a question on the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington and its relationship to the Palestinian question, 'Arafat said that a Soviet envoy will later communicate to him the results of this summit. He affirmed that Moscow has promised to send this envoy, but he did not specify when he will arrive.

'Arafat stressed that all the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are unanimously determined to continue the uprising under the PLO to resist the Israeli occupation authorities. He said the Christian sects in occupied Palestine have decided to cancel all Christmas and New Year celebrations except religious ceremonies. This was decided following a recent meeting by these sects.

'Arafat stated that the reports he has received affirm that a number of Knesset members have called for investigations to reveal the Israeli occupation authorities' inhuman practices. He said Knesset member Charlie Biton has called for an inquiry into the Nabulus and Gaza incidents and that the Rats [name as received] bloc has issued a statement calling for confining the Army to strategic points and withdrawing it from the cities.

Answering a question on Jordanian-Palestinian contacts, 'Arafat said that the Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the occupied territories will begin a meeting on 16 December that will last for 3 days. The Jordanian-Palestinian committee for continuing political dialogue will meet at the end of this month in Jordan. He said the committee will start from the stage reached by the Jordanian and Palestinian sides for continuing political dialogue. 'Arafat agreed with King Husayn on the sidelines of the extraordinary Arab summit that political dialogue should be resumed.

Chairs Meeting in Baghdad

JN131919 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chaired an extraordinary meeting of the occupied homeland committee in Baghdad today to discuss recent developments in the heroic uprising of our people in the occupied homeland against the most violent and the fiercest Zionist repressive onslaught, which seeks to undermine our people's steadfastness and determination to pursue struggle until great victory. Our radio correspondent has learned that the meeting will discuss several necessary actions to support our people's uprising and ways to escalate it against the occupation and its hideous crimes.

Sends 'Urgent' Message to Italy

JN131930 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1816 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the Italian ambassador to Iraq at his place of residence in Baghdad today. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar asked the Italian ambassador to convey an urgent message to the Italian Government. The message deals with the serious, bloody developments in the occupied Palestinian territory and the Zionist occupation authorities' crimes against unarmed Palestinians. Our radio correspondent has learned that the message also deals with current consultations at the United Nations regarding the UN Security Council's emergency session which was requested by the PLO and the Arab group to discuss the serious situation in the occupied territory, adopt a resolution to denounce Zionist crimes there, and take practical measures to protect unarmed Palestinians.

PFLP Holds Speech Rally on 20th Anniversary

JN120631 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The PFLF this evening held a speech rally marking the 20th anniversary of its inception at the Palestinian Arab Club in Al-Yarmuk camp. The rally was attended by Comrade Sami Salih, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee; Dr George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP; a number of the commanders of the Palestinian revolution organizations; the chief of staff of the Palestinian Liberation Army; the YSP delegation; solidarity committees in some socialist countries; representatives of Arab and world liberation movements; representatives of Arab and socialist embassies; and a large gathering of citizens.

Comrade Sami Salih delivered the Ba'th Party speech in which he affirmed that more than ever before Syria stands determined, under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, to continue the march of struggle against the Zionist onslaught and all forms of conspiracies and aggression. Comrade Salih also affirmed that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party revolution in Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and our Arab Palestinian people will not allow any side or force to deter the Palestinian revolution from its national line nor will it allow any party to tamper with the martyrs' blood. Dr George Habash then delivered the PFLP speech.

Many additional speeches praised Syria's steadfast and brave stands against aggression, economic and military pressure, and the new colonialist ambitions. Speakers affirmed that Syria is the leader of struggle against the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary schemes. Speakers also praised the Palestinian masses who are continuing their uprising in the occupied homeland against the Zionist invaders with their chests, stones, and sticks. They noted that the heroic Arab Palestinian people each day shout that they want leaders at the level of the sacrifices that they make every day.

Reportage on Palestinian-Israeli Fighting

Clash With Navy Patrol

JN111958 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1812 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Communique issued by a military spokesman for the General Command of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; date and place not given]

[Text] A group of our heroic combatants foiled a Zionist naval landing attempt off the southern Lebanese coast last night. Our heroic group confronted a Zionist Navy patrol that tried to land near the south Lebanese coast and engaged it in combat using various types of weapons for 90 minutes. The clash resulted in killing the patrol commander and causing various wounds to many Zionist soldiers, according to an enemy Army Command statement. Revolution until victory!

Gunboats Shell Lebanese Areas

JN121850 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 87

["Text" of a military communique issued by the PLO on 10 December; place not given]

[Text] As part of the war of annihilation policy, which the Zionist enemy is pursuing against our Palestinian people within and outside and against the inhabitants of heroic southern Lebanon, enemy gunboats opened fire on our defenseless people in a number of southern Lebanese villages, as well as at Palestinian gatherings south of the Al-Zahrani area, at 2215 on 10 December 1987. Meanwhile, other enemy gunboats roamed the coast between this area and the city of Sidon and fired flares toward the coast.

Communiques Detail Attacks

JN131843 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Dec 87

["Text" of two military communiques issued by the General Command of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; date and place not given]

[Text] As the military governor of the heroic city of Khan Yunus was giving orders to the enemy soldiers to open fire on our masses, who are pursuing their heroic and magnificent defiance in their blessed uprising, our heroes of the martyr Mahir al-Burnu group operating in the occupied homeland attacked the military governor's car in the town center at 1315 yesterday, 12 December 1987. The car caught fire. It was not possible to determine the enemy's human losses because of the security cordon thrown around the operation site. The military governor was removed in a halftrack. Our heroes returned safely to base.

Second: Our revolutionaries of the martyr Ahmad Hillis group operating in the occupied homeland attacked an enemy patrol with hand grenades at 1340 yesterday, 12 December 1987, as it was repressing the uprising of our kinfolk in occupied Hebron. The attack damaged the car and wounded an undetermined number of enemy soldiers who were evacuated from the scene by ambulance. Soon afterwards, the enemy cordoned off the area and reinforcements brought to the site began searching and provoking the townspeople. Revolution until victory!

OPEC Affairs

Further on Vienna Ministerial Meeting

Talks Resume

LD121935 Vienna OPECNA in English 1912 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 12 Dec 87 (OPECNA)—OPEC ministers resumed their meeting at 1945 hours local time after having adjourned it Thursday to enable delegations to hold informal consultations.

The latest session is being held behind closed doors.

The ministers, who have so far held three sessions at the OPEC Secretariat, are meeting in the Hotel Intercontinental suite of conference president Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, who is also Nigerian minister of petroleum resources.

The 82nd meeting of the OPEC conference began on Wednesday.

Meeting Adjourns

LD122130 Vienna OPECNA in English 2045 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 12 Dec (OPECNA)—OPEC ministers who met here this evening formally behind closed doors for the first time since Thursday, adjourned after about one hour and will meet Sunday for what is likely to be their final session.

The regular year-end OPEC conference began here Wednesday.

This evening's session was the fourth held by the ministers. In between, they have been busy in intensive consultations.

This evening's meeting was held in the Hotel Intercontinental suite of conference president and Nigerian Minister of Petroleum Resources Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman.

No Agreement Reached

LD132053 Kuwait KUNA in English 1945 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Vienna, Dec 13 (KUNA)—There is no new agreement as yet with regard to oil prices and production levels, KUNA learns from delegations to the 82nd ministerial conference of OPEC Sunday. [passage omitted]

It appears that complete agreement is unlikely to be obtained among all delegations on maintaining the current reference price of 18 dollars per barrel and on the current production quotas within the 16.6 million barrels per day OPEC ceiling.

A member of the Nigerian delegation expressed doubts to KUNA that the meeting will come to an official end Sunday: 'I have my doubts' he said.

The outlook by other delegations is more optimistic but not cheerful. The outcome of this conference may be the tacit understanding that current reference price and production limit will continue to be maintained for the first half of 1988.

Failing to come to agreement on the matter of price and output ceiling, the 13 ministers of OPEC have decided to re-convene sometime Monday.

Consequently, no formal (final) session of the 82nd meeting of the ministerial conference of OPEC in Vienna was held this Sunday.

Iran To Sign Accord

AU140801 Paris AFP in English 0007 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 14 (AFP)—Venezuela's Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti made it clear here that an accord on oil price and production levels will definitely be finalized by OPEC ministers here Monday.

He also asserted that Iran would sign it.

Questioned shortly after midnight (2400 GMT), he replied affirmatively on both points.

He said he had not heard about any request from a group of member countries favouring a production ceiling below the 15.06 million barrels a day (mbd) tentatively agreed for the first half of 1986 by 12 of the 13 OPEC countries, excluding Iraq.

Iran Minister Departs

AU141023 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 14 (AFP)—Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh left Vienna on Monday for home, saying he was to consult his government on a tentative OPEC agreement on oil price and production levels for next year.

Participants in the conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, in its sixth day here, said they expected the accord to be finalized Monday night.

It was held up during the weekend mainly because of sharp differences between Iran and conservative Arab states of the Gulf, mainly over pricing.

A full meeting of OPEC ministers was tentatively set for 6 p.m. (1700 GMT), to allow Mr. Aqazadeh time for consultations in Tehran and to give his delegation here the required instructions, conference sources said.

The Iranian minister left on a special flight, which took off shortly before 9 a.m. (0800 GMT).

He left his deputy, Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, in charge of the Iranian delegation at the OPEC meeting.

Mr. Aqazadeh made it clear to reporters that Iran had still not decided whether to join the tentative accord, but he said he would make his "best effort" in this respect.

He said the proposed deal would set a 15.06 million barrels a day (mbd) production ceiling for 12 of the 13 OPEC countries.

Iraq last night said it would not sign the accord.

Mr. Aqazadeh said all other provisions of the existing agreement, including OPEC's benchmark price of 18 dollars a barrel, "remain unchanged, as in the second half of this year."

He emphasized Iran's "intention...to raise the price because of the depreciation of the dollar," and said this issue "will be dealt with in our next conference."

"All the issues are open in our next conferences," he added.

OPEC oil ministers hold their regular conference twice a year, usually in June and December.

But Mr. Aqazadeh pointed out that an extraordinary meeting could be held if a ministerial body set up to monitor prices found there was evidence of "violations" of the agreement on this point.

Chad

President Habre Returns After Antibes Summit

AB140804 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The president, El Hadj Hissein Habre, returned to Ndjamena from Paris a little after 2100 [2000 GMT] yesterday evening. It will be recalled that the head of state took part in the 14th Franco-African summit. [passage omitted]

Libyan Planes Overfly Tibesti Region 10 Dec

AB111913 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1855 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The realities in Chad, which President Hissein Habre often speaks about, are demonstrated daily. A Libyan military column penetrated Chadian territory on 9 December from Sudan. It was intercepted and routed by the valiant FANT in the Goz Beida area. [passage omitted]

Another proof of the Libyan threat to our country is the violation of Chadian airspace. Yesterday the Libyan military Air Force overflew at 1000 local time [0900 GMT] the Districts of Bardai and Wour in the Tibesti Region. This is sufficient proof that Libya has not given up its claims on Chad and that Libya has no intention of respecting the OAU's decisions.

Embassy in Paris Warns Sudan on Aid to Libya

JN111822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The Chadian Embassy in Paris announced that the Chadian national forces wiped out a column of mercenaries working with the Libyans. The Embassy statement says the column was seeking to enter Chadian territory when it was surrounded by the Chadian Army in the (Taghus Bayda') area. As a result, 18 fighters were killed and scores wounded in the Libyan column. The Chadian Embassy statement warns the Sudanese Government and asks it to shoulder its responsibility and not open its border to the fighters of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Opposition Group Calls for 'United Front'

AB111924 Paris AFP in French 1715 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Paris, 11 Dec (AFP)—The Chadian Socialist Union (UST, opposed to the Ndjamena regime), today launched an appeal for the "reunification of all Chadian political forces within a united front." In a communique, Abderraman Koulamallah, the UST's coordinator, asserted that "the border conflict with Libya cannot overshadow the internal conflicts in Chad." There is "a need for true national consensus" to end these conflicts. "It is the only means of guaranteeing peace," the communique added. Finally, the UST called on "all Chadian political forces to get ready for a possible meeting to establish a united front."

Egypt

Reportage on Hungarian Foreign Minister's Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

NC121916 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1837 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr Peter Varkonyi arrived in Cairo this evening for a 3-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, Varkonyi will meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials.

The Hungarian minister is expected to sign two agreements during his visit. The first is a tourism agreement, which he will sign with Dr Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation. The second will be a legal agreement, which he will sign with Justice Minister Counsellor Faruq Sayf al-Nasr.

The Hungarian minister praised Egyptian-Hungarian relations and affirmed that they were developing favorably. He also noted that there are numerous spheres for new cooperation between the two countries.

In an arrival statement, Dr Varkonyi said that the Washington summit and the agreement that was signed during it are important steps toward abolishing nuclear weapons.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who received the Hungarian guest, welcomed the visit and said that it reciprocates his visit to Hungary in 1985. He asserted that Egyptian-Hungarian ties are very amicable.

Also present at the Hungarian minister's reception was Erno Simonyi, Hungarian ambassador in Cairo.

Received by Mubarak

NC130819 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—At the presidential office this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi, who had arrived in Cairo last night. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Hungarian Ambassador in Cairo Erno Simonyi.

Comments on Talks

NC130932 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi said that the talks had concerned Egyptian-Hungarian relations and the possibilities of further developing them. A number of international issues, particularly the Middle East problem, were also reviewed, he stated.

The Hungarian foreign minister asserted that Egyptian-Hungarian relations are good, adding: There is cooperation in all fields, particularly in the manufacture of locomotives. There are also several barter arrangements between the two countries in the industrial and production fields. He expressed his country's readiness to help implement some of the projects included in the Egyptian 5-year plan.

For his part, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, welcomed the Hungarian foreign minister's visit and said that it is in response to his own trip to Hungary in 1986. He added that Egyptian-Hungarian talks will begin at the Foreign Ministry today. [passage omitted]

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC131255 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Talks began at the Foreign Ministry this morning between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi.

Following the talks, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that discussions had revolved around bilateral relations and the possibilities of increasing economic cooperation, particularly in the agricultural and industrial sectors. He said that international issues were also discussed at the meeting. Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that the Hungarian foreign minister had briefed him on the recent Berlin meeting, which was attended by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and East European leaders, and during which the most important results of the Washington summit were reviewed. The Egyptian foreign minister affirmed that Egypt welcomes the results of the Washington summit as they will reduce tension in a number of areas of conflict and will create a cordial climate among various countries.

Responding to a question about Egypt's stand on the recent events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Dr 'Abd al-Majid reported that he had sent a message yesterday to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on this issue. He also instructed Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, to take part in the Security Council's debate on these events. Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that Egypt regrets these developments; it stresses that violence only breeds violence and that the peace process must be set in motion to put an end to this violence. He emphasized that Egypt is anxious to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East in the hope that it will put a peaceful end to this situation in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Hungarian foreign minister noted that all aspects of bilateral relations and various international issues, particularly the Middle East situation and the Gulf war, were discussed at the meeting.

Judicial Agreement Signed

NC131409 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Justice Minister Faruq Sayf al-Nasr and Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr Peter Varkonyi, who is currently visiting Egypt, signed an agreement today on matters pertaining to criminal law. The agreement contains provisions regarding the extradition of criminals and the exchange of convicts between the two countries, enabling prisoners to serve their sentences in their home countries. The agreement also contains provisions pertaining to judicial cooperation between the two countries. Present at the signing ceremony were Erno Simonyi, the Hungarian ambassador in Cairo, and Dr Fathi Najib, the assistance minister of justice.

Received by 'Ali Lutfi

NC131713 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1624 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi received visiting Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr Peter Varkonyi today. They discussed Middle East developments, Egypt's efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region, and ways to promote bilateral ties in various areas, particularly parliamentary ties.

The Hungarian foreign minister expressed his appreciation for Egypt's significant role in the Middle East and for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's prudent policy.

Defense Minister To Visit Kuwait 14 Dec

NC112327 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2320 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, will pay a 2-day visit to Kuwait on Monday [14 December] at the invitation of the Kuwaiti defense minister.

In its Saturday edition, the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports that aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait will be discussed during the

visit. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah will also meet with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With PLO Delegation

NC121521 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here with a PLO delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, this morning. During the meeting, the discussion focused on the Palestinian issue at the current stage.

Following the meeting, Dr 'Abd al-Majid made a statement in which he stressed Egypt's eagerness to maintain the consultations and coordination with the PLO in a bid to give momentum to the peace drive and to convene an international conference for peace, which is the only means for resolving the problem, as soon as possible. He also emphasized Egypt's interest in the need to continue Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in this respect. Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed his deep sorrow over the ongoing events in the West Bank, stressing Egypt's condemnation of these practices.

'Abdallah Hurani, the official spokesman for the PLO delegation, stated that Dr 'Abd al-Majid had informed the members of the delegation about Egypt's intention to move on the Arab, international, and other levels in order to stop the fierce Israeli campaign against the Palestinains in the occupied territories. He described the outcome of the Egyptian-Palestinian talks as positive. Hurani noted that this is what is expected of Egypt, which carries the Arab and, naturally, the Palestinian burdens. He added: Following the Arab summit, we felt the importance of, and the need for, Egypt's role first and foremost for the Palestinians and then for the Arabs.

It should be recalled that this was the second meeting between Dr 'Abd al-Majid and the PLO delegation since its arrival on Tuesday. A Jordanian-Palestinian meeting is scheduled to be held in Amman at the end of this month. That meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Palestinian-Jordanian committee in charge of supporting Palestinian steadfastness in the occupied territories.

'Abd al-Majid Calls on Peres To End Violence

NC121331 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Egypt emphatically rejects the use of force by Israeli troops against Palestinian civilians. This practice has left several Palestinians killed or wounded.

Egypt made its position known in a message from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry today said that Dr 'Abd al-Majid called for an end to these Israeli practices, pointing out that violence begets more violence and constitutes a major obstacle to the efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict.

In another development, Dr 'Abd al-Majid today instructed Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's delegate to the United Nations, to take part in the UN Security Council debate on the situation in the occupied territories and on the stiff measures that Israel is taking against the Palestinians there, to which Egypt is totally opposed.

NPUG Leader Calls for Israeli Disarmament

NC111411 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Dr Khalid Muhyi al-Din, leader of the NPUG and chairman of the Egyptian Committee for Peace and Disarmament, has called for an end to Israeli nuclear armament. It poses a danger to the Middle East region, he said, particularly because Israel has ongoing disputes with its neighbors in the region.

Dr Muhyi al-Din was speaking this morning at the opening session of the international seminar on the establishment of nuclear-free zones in the Middle East and the Mediterranean region. In his speech, he stated that this seminar is being held in Cairo as part of international efforts to halt nuclear armaments, which constitute a hazard threatening humanity with annihilation.

Romesh Chandra, chairman of the WPC, made a speech in which he praised the agreement signed by Reagan and Gorbachev, describing it as a positive step on the road toward protecting humanity from the danger of nuclear arms. Chandra asserted that the removal of nuclear arms is a step toward cutting armament budgets and utilizing the funds thus made available to remedy several problems facing the world, particularly economic problems, food shortages, and the protection of the environment against pollution.

Chandra also praised UN efforts to emphasize the need to establish nuclear-free zones in the Middle East. He said that the Gulf war must be ended and world public opinion mobilized to impose sanctions on the party that refuses to end this war. [passage omitted]

Israeli Plot To Spread AIDS Disclosed

PM111021 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 87 pp 1, 4

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Ring of Israeli Harlots To Spread AIDS in Egypt"]

[Excerpts] A plot was discovered a few days ago, which was hatched by the Israeli Mossad to spread AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) among the

Egyptian people's sons by sending to Cairo a ring comprising scores of Jewish girls of Israeli, European, and American nationalities. The Israeli Mossad's instructions deem their activities in Cairo a national duty in the interest of "greater" Israel! [passage omitted]

A number of youths who fell victim to this ring were shocked when they woke up to find a note saying "welcome to the AIDS club!"

Information confirms that it was the Israeli Embassy in Cairo that accommodated these girls in furnished apartments under false names so that Egyptian security services could not trace them.

It has been reported that Egyptian security services are conducting large-scale and highly secret inquiries to trace the ring's members as well as those youths who fell victim to this ring in an attempt to contain the spread of the disease.

Three years ago the Israeli Mossad's higher body held a meeting in view of the deterioration in Egyptian-Israeli relations and decided that Egypt should be fought with a number of weapons, namely by spreading all types of drugs on a large scale among the ranks of the Egyptian people as well as by spying and collecting information about what is going on in Egypt. This was in an attempt to destroy Egyptian society from within. [passage omitted]

These girls are from among those who have proven to be infected with AIDS. It was agreed with girls residing in Europe and the United States that they fly directly to Cairo where the Israeli Embassy would monitor their activities and provide them with all they needed through the Israeli Mossad's network based in Cairo, which has a strong connection with Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason!

Mubarak Receives French Aviation Official

NC131233 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—At the presidential office this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Serge Dassault, chairman of the French Dassault Aviation company, and the delegation accompanying him, which includes Deltoile [name as received], general manager for international relations, and Lavaux [name as received], the company's general manager for production. The Dassault delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday on a private 3-day visit.

Following the meeting, Serge Dassault stated that the talks dealt with the means of strengthening cooperation between Egypt and the French company in the field of industrial cooperation as well as in technology transfer. He said he was pleased that the Egyptian Air Force is using Mirage planes, which are made by the Dassault company, and that France is participating in the assembly of parts of this type of plane in Egypt. He added that his consultations in Egypt are focusing on strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation in manufacturing the improved Mirage 2000 aircraft. He also stressed the French company's willingness to extend every possible assistance in the transfer of technology to Egypt.

Concluding his statement, Dassault said that his talks with officials from the Ministries of Defense and War Production and the Arab Industrialization Authority will deal with ways of boosting this cooperation.

Mubarak Contacts Officials Over Bus Incident

NC121354 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] A bus carrying schoolchildren from the village of Kafr Abu Sir, near Al-Salam city, collided with the Cairo-Suez train on Friday evening. MENA has reported that, according to preliminary reports, approximately 75 pupils were either killed or injured in the accident, in addition to the schoolteachers.

His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at noon today. The Jordanian monarch expressed his sorrow and conveyed his condolences to the victims of the tragic collision between a bus carrying children from Kafr Abu Sir elementary school and a train along the Cairo-Suez highway yesterday afternoon [as heard].

As soon as he heard about the regrettable accident involving the Kafr Abu Sir elementary schoolchildren, President Mubarak contacted the ministers and senior officials present at the scene of the accident to ascertain whether the proper medical care had been made available to the children. He also telephoned the directors of the Manshiyat al-Bakri and Heliopolis Hospitals to find out about the condition of the injured children who were taken to these hospitals after the accident. President Mubarak instructed Dr Zakariya 'Azmi, secretary general of the presidency, to visit these two hospitals to inquire, in the name of his excellency the president, about the condition of the injured children and the medical care provided for them. He also gave orders for financial assistance to be provided for the families of the victims who were either killed or wounded in this tragic accident.

Cabinet Issues Statement

NC122059 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] A responsible source at the Council of Ministers has stated that 53 passengers were killed and 67 others were injured as a result of the collision between a picnic bus and the Suez train between 'Ayn Shams and Suez. The source revealed that there were no casualties among the train's passengers.

A statement by the Council of Ministers has noted that the dead and injured have been taken to the Heliopolis and Manshiyat al-Bakri Hospitals, the 'Ayn Shams Specialized Hospital, and the Armed Forces Hospital in Al-Ma'adi.

Immediately after the incident, senior officials of the Interior, Health, and Transport Ministries, and Cairo Governorate officials left for the scene of the crash and supervised the evacuation of the victims.

The statement added that the bus was removed from the train tracks after permission was obtained from the prosecutor's office. Train traffic on the Suez line was then resumed.

An investigation is currently under way to determine the circumstances of the crash, according to the statement issued by the Council of Ministers.

The statement also urged all drivers of vehicles to observe total caution and to obey traffic regulations at railroad crossings.

'Extremists' Cause Unrest in Two Areas

JN132033 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 87 pp 1, 2

[By Jamal 'Aql and Fawzi 'Awadayn]

[Text] Twenty-six Islamic extremists attacked residents of 'Abd al-Jawad Amin Street in Al-Sahil on 9 December killing Hasan Mahmud Hamid, an 18-year-old pupil, and injuring four others. As a result of investigations conducted by the northern Cairo District police, it was learned that the trouble began when a bearded man, identified as 'Atif Muhammad Bakr Hasan, tried to force Nafi' Muhammad 'Abd al-Maqsud, a grocer in the neighborhood, to turn off his radio, which was playing an Umm Kulthum song. An argument ensued and residents of the neighborhood tried to intervene to end the dispute.

Three hours later, the suspect accompanied by 25 other persons returned to the scene and began attacking the street's inhabitants. Suspects 'Atif Muhammad Bakr, Khalid Isma'il, and Kamal Jundub, and others—23 altogether—were taken to the police station where they were identified by witnesses.

In Alexandria, Alexandria University guards led by Major General Ibrahim 'Ashrah arrested five student members of extremist groups. They are Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz Zuwayl of the law faculty; Khalid Ahmad Siddiq and Ashraf Lutfi al-Jawhari of the arts faculty; and Muhammad Salim Ghunaym and Sa'd Ahmad al-Mahdi of the education faculty. They broke into the party of an aquaintance for new students at the auditorium of the arts faculty. They beat them, threw them out of the hall, wrecked furniture, and injured the three students Fu'ad al-Janayni, Sulayman As'ad, and Sa'd Ahmad Muhammad, who were hospitalized for treatment and then questioned by the police.

Libya

French Envoy Summoned Over Arms Supply to Chad

LD121542 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison summoned the French ambassador at noon today. He was asked to deliver the Great Jamahiriyah's protest to the French Government concerning its decision to resume supplying weapons to the hireling Habre. This act is considered to be an exacerbation of the situation on the part of France, and it encourages the hireling Habre to commit aggression. It additionally hinders the efforts of the OAU and is a threat to regional peace and security.

Habre Aims 'Exposed'; Chad Conflict 'Internal'

LD122310 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Paris, Al-Kanun [December] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, the member of the Sudanese Sovereign [State] Council, refuted the claims which Habre is spreading in Ndjamena that his regime is facing an external threat from Libya through the Sudanese area of Darfur.

He said in a press statement to the French International Radio we are ready at any moment to provide proofs which substantiate this reality.

While Sudan renews its denial of these claims, Habre is still repeating them through the French mass media which promote them in a remarkable and deliberate manner in a bid to realise objectives which we have already exposed and they are:

First: That Habre and those behind the work to keep him in Ndjamena are seeking to cover up the deteriorating situation he is living as a result of the uprising of the Chadian tribes against him.

Second: Habre became isolated from all Chadian tribes and he has no existence except amongst his Nkaza tribe and hence the creation of an imaginary threat might divert attention from the dangers posed by the Chadian tribes against him especially the confrontation between Habre and those tribes has entered for sometime the phase of armed decisiveness. [sentence as received]

Three: Habre by spreading those claims and his persistence on them is aimed at justifying armed robberies and theft carried out by his gangs against Sudanese villages.

Four: The persistence on spreading such claims is a stand against peace and a bid to deal a blow to African efforts towards solving the internal Chadian problem in African manner through the OAU.

Five: Jamahiriyah reasserts that there is no state of war with Chad and that there are no Libyan forces in Sudan and that what is taking place in Chad is an internal matter between the Chadian tribes and the regime of Ndjamena.

Habre Accusations Refuted

LD131142 Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 13 Dec 87

["The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau issues a statement in reply to the decisions made by puppet Habre"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, December 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau yesterday issued a statement in reply to declarations made by puppet Habre to the French international radio. The statement is as follows.

First.

The world and African peoples got used to whenever puppet Habre travels to Washington and Paris to make false declarations and create events to justify obtaining further support and gives false impression that his problem was not with the Chadian people or its revolutionary and patriotic forces or with those surrounding him directly in the collapsing capital but with the Libyans alone.

Puppet Habre could not go to Paris without being accompanied with such lies claiming that the Libyan forces were preparing for attack on Chad from the eastern borders with Sudan and without fabricating hundreds of Libyan aircraft violations of the Chadian airspace.

Two.

Habre this time confronts the reality of the Chadian problem which he attempted to deny in the past. [Words indistinct] with within an African framework and in accordance with an African decision and by an African commission and hence the justifications of French American intervention in Chad fall and Habre found himself before the real truth which he tried, in the past to cover with lies and deception.

Three.

Habre is unable to say the truth and that those fighting in eastern Chad and other parts of the country are not Libyans, and those he calls the Islamic Legion are in reality the tribes of Hadjerai, Kardia and Assalamat and the forces of the first army and he cannot deny that the tribe of Hadjerai have gone on permanent rebellion in retaliation for the murder of their man Idris Miskin and surely Habre could not abandon the language of lies and distortion as that would uncover the reality of his internal problems and the reality of permanent mutiny by tribes opposing his presence and puts, in the same time, the support of France and America to him under the category of blatant colonial intervention to backing a shaky power which is impotent to exist and be stable.

Four.

The lies cannot be supported but by those who connive with him.. On this basis France is working to fuel and explode the conflict in Chad and appear as if it was trying to put the fire down. France is saying that it decided to resume the despatching of military hardware to its puppet in Ndjamena. We ask: When did this supply of arms stopped so as to resume. Meanwhile France is saying that it supports the efforts of the OAU to reach a peaceful solution to the problem. How can the support of the efforts of the OAU to finding a peaceful solution be reconciled with the resumption of army supply to Chad.

Five.

Great Jamahiriyah reaffirms that it has an absolute right to take all precautions so as to protect its security including the consolidation of its bases within its borders. If the base of [Ma'tan] Al-Sarra, situated 300 kms from the Chadian borders, is reinforced or fortified this does not require permission from anyone. And if this logic is not applied Libya would have the right to say no to the military bases in Fay[-Largeau] and Abeche. As far as the claims of violation of Chadian airspace, Libya denies anew any such acts and the reconnaissance mission undertaken by the Libyan Airforce on the Libyan borders could be seen from within the Chadian borders.

Six.

Jamahiriyah expresses its confidence in the efforts of the OAU, adheres to its decisions and would not spare any effort in supporting these decisions. But it warns [words indistinct] are drumming up for war will work, with external forces' support to destroy these efforts.

Jamahiriyah reassures the African and world public opinion that the claims by Ndjamena of Libyan preparation to launch a new aggression on Chad are merely an advanced justification for a new aggression on Libya being arranged for by puppet Habre with the support and direct intervention of France and America.

Further on Visit of GDR Minister Buschmann

Discusses Communications

LD111437 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Marine

Transport met yesterday evening in Tripoli Mr. Buschmann, the minister of light industry in the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

During the meeting, the aspects of the existing cooperation between both friendly countries and the means to develop it and consolidate it in the field of communications and marine transport in particular, were discussed.

Reviews Bilateral Ties

LD131227 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison this morning met with with Werner Buschmann, GDR minister for light industry. During their talks, which were also attended by the GDR's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, they discussed bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them to benefit the two friendly peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and the GDR.

Signs Cooperation Minutes

LD131230 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Dec (JANA)—The signing of the minutes of the eighth session of the joint Libyan Arab-GDR committee took place this morning in Tripoli.

The minutes of the agreement call for developing cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the GDR in the trade, economic, technical, and scientific sectors. They were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research, and by Werner Buschmann, GDR minister for light industry.

Al-Qadhdhafi Opens Arab Opposition Conference

LD131017 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, December 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution yesterday evening inaugurated the proceedings of the national conference of Arab opposition parties in the presence of delegations representing 49 opposition parties, organizations and political movements in the Arab world as well as the Palestinian resistance groups.

As soon as the leader of the revolution arrived, shouts of long live the Great al-Fatih Revolution, its leader and the pioneering role being lead by the people of Great Jamahiriyah and the support to the causes of the Arab nations, its unity and dignity overwhelmed the conference area.

The proceedings of the conference, which comes in reply to the initiative submitted by the leader of the revolution in his speech to the 18th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, is to continue until the 15th current.

The most important issues to be discussed by the conference are: First.

The study of problems which caused disputes amongst Arabs so as to reach a common understanding for their solution. They are:

1. The stance towards Egypt following its recognition of the enemy.

2. The Gulf war.

3. The Western Sahara.

4. The stance towards the international conference on the Middle East.

Second.

The national responsibility towards the liberation of Palestine and the support to the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people.

Three.

The Arab union as a formula imposed by the phase so as to stop the deterioration and create an economic and defence capability protecting the Arab world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets PFLP, Lebanese Figures

LD131152 Tripoli Domestic Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Taysir Qub'ah, member of the PFLP Executive Committee, and George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Al-Talhi Receives New Albanian Ambassador

LD122325 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, this morning received the credentials of the new Albanian ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

In an address on this occasion, the secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau asserted the good relations between the Libyan Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and the people of friendly Republic of Albania.

He said that the peoples of the two countries suffered from colonialism and stand together against imperialism, Zionism and racism and that they both overlook the Mediterranean and have an interest for the lake to be of peace and security away from foreign fleets.

He added we highly appreciate the stance of your friendly country towards the liberation causes and in particular its stance vis a vis the Arab basic cause—the Palestinian cause.

At the end of his address, the secretary requested the Albanian ambassador to convey the greetings of the leader of the revolution and the people of Great Jamahiriyah to Ramiz Alia, the president of the Supreme People's Council and the president of the Republic, Socialist Albania, and the friendly people of Albania.

The Albanian ambassador made a speech during the presentation of his credentials starting it by conveying the greetings of the president of the People's Council and president of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, to the leader of the revolution and his good wishes to the Libyan Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah for progress and prosperity.

He pointed out that the Republic of Albania condemned the American aggression on the Great Jamahiriyah. He called for the need for developing relations with the Libyan Arab people and the Arab world. He said the relations between the peoples of Albania and the Arab people are old and work for freedom, independence and the changing of the Mediterranean into a lake of peace and security.

He added that the Albanian Government highly appreciates the efforts of the Libyan Arab people and their leader for freedom, the sovereignty and independence of the peoples. He stressed that he will endeavour to develop relations between the two countries for the mutual benefit of their two friendly peoples.

Meets With New Niger Envoy

LD122335 Tripoli JANA in English 1855 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau this morning received the credentials of the new ambassador of Niger to Great Jamahiriyah.

The ambassador extraordinary of Niger to Great Jamahiriyah presented his credentials with an address in which he conveyed the greetings of the President Ali Saibou. The president of the High Military Council and the president of the Republic of Niger, to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people saying that President Ali Saibou wanted to prove to the leader of the revolution the great important he attaches to fraternal and good neighbourly relations between our two countries. He added this choice is an honour for many reasons depriving from a long historical and geographical era which made permanent relations between our two peoples in their beliefs and adherence to common values.

He said the reasons of satisfaction add to my deep conviction that the accomplished achievements between Niger and Libya will consolidate cooperation especially that the two countries are fighting within the Nonaligned Movement and share in the membership of organizations at African and international levels so as to open encouraging perspectives for the benefits of the two friendly countries and future ties between them which must be embodied with a new launch, which is genuine, decisive and free from political burdens and false misunderstandings and that to move forward firmly towards the development of relations of cooperation and the realisation of common goals for the welfare of our peoples.

He pointed out that Niger is following, with admiration, the efforts being exerted by the Libyan Arab people to build up a new era through its application of direct democracy and people's authority in accordance with the Third Universal Theory thanks to effective active revolutionary leadership and the guiding of the masses in the basic people's congresses and inside the General People's Congress.

The new ambassador of Niger expressed the satisfaction of his country towards the consultations and contacts between the two countries in defence of just causes and the progress of our two brotherly peoples as well as for the dignity of Africa. He said Niger strongly supports Arab causes, the Palestinian cause, the liberation movements fighting for their independence and condemns and resists all forms of racial discrimination and racial hatred, new colonialism and Zionism and we believe in total liberation of Africa.

The secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau replied to this address with a speech conveying the greetings of the leader of the revolution to his Brother Colonel Ali Saibou, the president of the High Military Council and president of the Republic of Niger, and the people of Niger.

He said success and triumph will be the ally of our joint efforts towards the strengthening and development of relations of fraternity and cooperation between our two countries on the basis of mutual respect and good neighbourliness.

He said the linking historically, geographically and culturally of our two countries and their security and interests make success in cooperation a must on both sides and we, in this country are determined to have the

sincere desire for working towards success and my country since the coming of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution has proved its desire for earnest and continuous work towards this end and it is a strong believer in African cooperation.

The secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau made clear that Great Jamahiriyah was subjected to aggression on its northern borders in 1986 and on the southern borders this year and in the first and second time the aggressor was the same one.

The secretary pointed out that the appointment of a new ambassador for Niger to Great Jamahiriyah will contribute towards the consolidation of relations between the two countries and will give impetus to these relations into a wider spheres so as to reinforce fraternal, political and economic bonds between the two brotherly peoples.

Mauritania

President Addresses Nation on 3d Anniversary

LD131153 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] In an atmosphere of happiness and confidence in the future, our country today celebrated the third anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement of 12 December 1984. The celebrations began this morning with the raising of the national flag at the presidential palace under the auspices of Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, and in the presence of CMSN members, state officials, government ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps. On the occasion of the third anniversary of the Corrective Movement, the president addressed the nation and talked to them about the achievements that were made and the wide economic and financial vistas open for the country and its prosperity. The following is a summary of the president's speech, read by an announcer colleague:

Col Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, the CMSN chairman and head of state, began his speech by concentrating on the economic and financial aspects. He pointed out that the plans covered by the budget were proceeding according to estimates. He said that the economic and financial corrective plans adopted by the country have borne fruit and have won the admiration of international financiers and partners alike.

Speaking of the economic conditions of the past 9 months, the president pointed out that 40 percent of the growth targeted by the plan has been achieved, thanks to the vitality of the agricultural and fishing sectors. He said that the budget deficit fell by 1.9 percent, while the Treasury operations have produced a surplus of 30 million ouguiya. He affirmed that figures pertaining to the first 10 months of the current year call for optimism despite the international economic crises. He said that fish and grain exports during this period have experienced constant growth. The agricultural harvests have covered 36 percent of the country's agricultural needs, while exports of fish this year topped those of the previous year despite the deficit suffered by the services sector due to the payment of interests on loans and the services connected with fishing.

The mining sector has also witnessed constant growth in the past months, with iron exports topping 6.6 million tons. The SNIM Company has responded to the economic and financial corrections and overcome all its problems. In the coming year, (Samin) will begin extracting gold from the [name indistinct] and will later seek to extract copper ore from these mines. (Samin) has also scored considerable success by meeting all the market needs for cheese and butter and by exporting the surplus abroad.

With regard to the financial sector, he said that the implementation of the budget plan for the past 10 years had led to meeting the targets: Revenue as of the end of October 1987 had reached 73 percent of the estimated 15.8 billion ouguiya, including 13 billion ouguiya from taxes.

With regard to national commitment, the president said that an agreement rescheduling foreign debts had been concluded last July, under which 65.7 percent of the payments that come due between April 1987 and May 1988 will be paid over a period of 15 years, following a 4-year moratorium.

With regard to the currency and loans sector, the president pointed out that monetary liquidity during 1986-87 showed an increase of 1.2 billion ouguiya, compared to only 700 million ouguiya during 1985-86.

He said that the policy continued to be to restrict loans in accordance with the monetary control targets. He pointed out that foreign payments have exposed the reserves of the Central Bank to cumulative pressures due to the fluctuation of exchange rates. With regard to the other aspects of the economic and financial corrective program—namely, the correction of the central administration and the restoration of prestige to the public sector—the president affirmed that the effectiveness of the production system depends to a large extent on the reform of these two aspects. He added that 1987 has witnessed several corrective measures covering the fishing, energy, banking, central administration, and [word indistinct] sectors. He added that these sectors have succeeded in overcoming their problems thanks to these corrective measures.

He affirmed that henceforth the state will be able to cease squandering public funds haphazardly through uncontrolled public investments. He said that two administrations attached to the Ministry of Economy and Finance will carefully follow the development projects in cooperation with the financiers and the

ministries concerned. The president pointed out that the banking system has undergone a new reform under which the Central Bank will surrender to the state by way of transfer all its shares in the first [awwaliyah] banks. The new system will regulate relations between the Central Bank and other banks on the one hand and the structural system of the banks on the other.

With regard to the fishing sector, the president said that the new fishing strategy will insure success for this sector and greater control of our shores and of the fishing fleets which fish in our territorial waters, pointing out that efforts will center on [words indistinct] of crews and sailors. He said that fishing agreements had been signed with several fraternal and friendly countries to attract capital for the improvement of the fishing sector.

With regard to transportation, he said the ministry concentrated on maintaining, repairing, and constructing roads. About 411 million ouguiyas have been allocated for removing sand and maintenance work on the Al-Amal and [names indistinct] roads and the repair of the capital's road network.

With regard to trade, the president said that the Ministry of Commerce and Transportation was now reviewing the current regulations to facilitate imports and encourage deregulation of transport.

The president said that the water sector has also witnessed a noticeable development in the past months. Numerous artisan and other wells have been built and several new wells have been sunk.

With regard to the energy sector, the president pointed out that the reopening of the Nouadhibou refinery and the renewed operation of the gas plant and the oil byproducts import program have all helped a great deal to meet the country's energy needs.

With regard to agriculture, the president said the (Soladair) Company has carried out studies in the reclaimed lands on the Mauritanian bank of the [Senegal] River and in the provinces of (Charqui), Trarza, and Gorgol. The company has succeeded in reclaiming large areas, doubling the agriculture output, and helping the farmers.

With regard to education, the president pointed out that 1986-1987 had seen good conditions. He said that the increasing number of graduates demands that the authorities increase their efforts to find solutions to the unemployment problem. He said important improvements have been introduced in the educational system during the current year as part of the reform of the education sector. He said that the government department for combating illiteracy has played a major role in this respect by opening numerous centers throughout the country so that knowledge could reach the popular level. He said that our education system should help to develop and preserve our cultural, intellectual, and spiritual values.

The president also affirmed that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Orientation has worked to promote culture and to revive our heritage. He added that these efforts, however, continue to lack the human element that would promote our heritage on national and international levels.

With regard to the information sector, the president said that this sector hitherto had not received the attention it deserved as an effective means for combating backwardness. He said that the establishment of a ministry for information underlines the importance the national leadership attaches to this sector. He affirmed that the Adwa' program had helped to link the leadership with its base and to make the citizen aware of achievements and developments.

With regard to the public service sector, the president said that it had helped in the preparation of the administrative structure in collaboration with the World Bank. The Public Service Ministry had worked hard to provide youth employment through cooperation with the integration and reactivation fund, which is due to receive further support in January to enable it to continue work.

As for social security, the president affirmed that during the current year this sector had witnessed a qualitative improvement with respect to the social security system. Maternity and child benefits have been doubled. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs has intensified its work to cover all parts of the country.

The president said that the Food Security Commission was working on a policy of providing food in return for work in place of the policy of free distribution of relief, which had been in force until recently. He said that the commission's intervention in the sale of surplus agricultural produce has led to the stablization of the prices of cereals. He added that the commission had made use of the extension of the terms of structures for orientation of the masses by a whole year to enlighten the citizens and to create workshops for serving development plans. The president said that the job of the bodies for mass orientation will be defined within the framework of the elections of the municipal councils in the provinces.

The president said that the creation of a national fund for civil protection was being contemplated to bolster this vital matter. He said that the judicial system has been unified and that the concerned ministry was not reviewing the regulations and provisions to ensure that they keep abreast of the current conditions. He said that the development of the administration in a manner compatible with our ethics constitutes one of the priorities of the national leadership. He pointed out that the State Control Agency has been working for the advancement of the government machinery by tightening its controls.

The president said that after 3 years of persistent work, the state had regained its credibility and prestige internally and externally. He said that the state's options and trends stem from our affliation with the Arab League, the OAU, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement. He reiterated the principles on which our country's policies rest and its support for the peoples struggling for self-determination and independence, such as the Palestinian and Namibian peoples. He called for solidarity among the Islamic peoples and for international work to unite these peoples. He also affirmed that great achievements were made in the past 3 years in democratization, as well as in economic and financial correction.

In conclusion, the president said that it is high time for the citizens to appreciate the importance of the state, which protects and defends everyone and at the same time is leading the battle for national development.

'No Air of Festivity'

AB122021 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] On the political scene, not much noise was made in Mauritania on the occasion of the celebration of the 3 years of President Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya's leadership, as Alfred Mbadinga reports.

[Begin recording] There was no air of festivity in Mauritania, no civilian or military parade. We should speak rather of a monotonous atmosphere. In the capital of Nouakchott, and in Nouadhibou, the country's economic center, the only evidence of this anniversary was the flag-raising ceremony followed by some festivities marking the inauguration of some economic projects. Gone, therefore, are the days of [word indistinct] of drums and trumpets, and gone are the days of great banquets costing millions of francs. The Mauritanian (?finances) have become meager with a sad wind blowing everywhere.

It is thus still a time of austerity, as was recalled by President Taya in his message to the nation. There is no possibility that his government will squander the money obtained during the past 3 years [words indistinct] thanks to the setting up of an economic recovery plan with the simple goal of [word indistinct] his 3-year regime. There are greater priorities than festivities, added Mr Taya, who said that Mauritania has possibilities of recovering from the crisis in which it currently finds itself. The vital sectors, such as agriculture and fisheries, (?though not having obtained the expected) results in the just ended season, still offer great prospects. [Words indistinct] of the state was reduced this year from 4.7 percent in 1985 to 1.9 percent of the gross national product.

How can one fail to have confidence in the future of Mauritania considering that it has just succeeded in rescheduling its foreign debts, which amount to some 35 billion CFA francs. [Words indistinct] the country, the balance of trade continues to improve. That means, therefore, that the accomplishments of President Taya's regime can at least be described as reassuring, considering the series of financial and social difficulties that Mauritania is now going thorugh. [end recording]

Joint Commission Meeting With FRG Ends

AB121340 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Relations between the FRG and Mauritania are good. This is demonstrated by the result of the 10 December meeting of the joint cooperation commission between the two countries. Bonn and Nouakchott expressed their strong determination to develop and intensify their cooperation, particularly in the areas of rural development, food security, rural radio, and technical assistance. To this end, Minister of Equipment Alioune Ould N'diaye is expected to visit Hamburg [words indistinct].

Burkinabe Water Minister Arrives 13 Dec

LD132317 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Mr Alfred Nombre, the Burkinabe minister of water resources and special envoy of the Burkinabe president to his excellency the president, arrived in Nouakchott this morning. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the press, the Burkinabe envoy pointed out that his mission consisted in conveying the greetings of the Burkinabe people to the Mauritanian people in addition to conveying a message from Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the People's Front and head of state of Burkina Faso to His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN and head of state.

He pointed out that his activities during the visit were related to consultations about the African committee for studies in the water, highlighting that his country chaired the ministerial council of this body, which is to hold its conference on 14 February 1988 in Ouagadougou. [passage omitted]

(Paul Kesioria), the Ghanian ambassador and special envoy of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings to His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, arrived on the same plane. [passage omitted]

Sudan

National Unity Radio Details Ethiopian Attack

EA111923 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Under a headline reading "From AL-JARIDAH," AL-JARIDAH reports the following: Successive reports from our military correspondent in the operational area

on the eastern front fully confirm that this peace-loving nation is destined to wage a holy war in defense of its land, identity, faith, honor, and its entire history. The news does not augur well, for it is now a fact, one confirmed by all factual evidence, testimony, and [words indistinct] on the eastern front, that the most modern weapons—laser-guided missiles and heavy artillery, for example—are now being employed. They are being used to strike at our courageous Armed Forces and peaceful villages, burn farms, and destroy animals. Ethiopian forces massed on the border, and along with the stooge forces of Garang, penetrated for many miles in an attempt to advance further. They additionally inflicted damage and spread chaos and confusion against the cohesion of the internal front. Russian, Cuban, and East German experts are operating these advanced weapons and are participating in the fighting.

Army General Cited on Qaysan 'Conspiracy'

JN131056 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec. 13 (SUNA)—Over 600 rebels and five Sudanese Government troops were [killed] in fighting Wednesday [9 December] in the southern eastern border town of Qaysan, reports reached here said.

The reports quoted the commander of the Second Division (Infantry) of the Sudanese Armed Forces in the area, Maj General Zayn al-'Abidin Qasamallah as saying that rebel troops have fired heavy artillery on the Sudanese Armed Forces in the town and the rebel forces which attacked Qaysan was estimated at five divisions backed by Ethiopian forces.

SUNA correspondent in Ad-Damazin quoted Central Region Governor Faruq Isma'il as saying that the recent conspiracy on Qaysan town had revealed the open cooperation between the SPLA rebels and Ethiopians and others foreign quarters which he did not name.

He said the rebels were supported with tanks and field guns mounted on vehicles and that about 4000 rebels encircled the government troops and empowered them by weapons and number.

Isma'il said, the Sudanese Armed Forces have withdrawn and they had begun preparations to restore the position. The governor said the cooperation between the rebels has changed their name to the Socialist Sudanese Ethiopian Front for the Liberation of Sudan he pointed out that, the new name was adopted in a meeting held recently in the Ethiopian town of Asosa. [sentence as received]

Garang Gives Order for 'General Offensive'

EA141534 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] In a brief statement to Radio SPLA, the commander in chief, John Garang de Mabior, ordered all SPLA axis, zonal, and independent area commanders to launch incentive [as heard] operations everywhere to rout the sectarian forces of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. This order of general offensive in all of War Zone 1 and in operational and (?contested) areas of Zone 2 is in effect as of 1500 today, Monday, 14 December 1987.

Radio SPLA Claims Combat Successes

2 Garrisons Said Overrun

EA141516 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] SPLA forces of Axis 2, under the direct command of Commander Salva Kiir Mayar Dit, member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and deputy chief of staff for operations and security, overran two enemy garrisons of Khartoum Bilal and Kashangaro, north of Qaysan, near to Ad-Damazin, yesterday morning at 10:30 and 10:35 am respectively. Correspondent says that the enemy suffered very heavy casualties in men and material.

The commander of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops, a colonel whose mission was to recapture Qaysan, abandoned his car, a Toyota pickup, which has been seized by SPLA troops. The commander of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops and remnants of his soldiers are being pursued, and our correspondent says that there are expectations that he will be captured by the SPLA forces. [passage omitted]

80 Soldiers Killed at Amadi

LD111538 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Western Equatoria Task Force, under the direct operational command of Lieutenant Jipson Friday Gabriel, launched a surprise attack on the enemy company of Brigade No 16 at Amadi, 17 miles northeast of Maridi on the 22 November 1987. Correspondent says that over 80 enemy soldiers were killed in the battle that lasted 2 hours. The remnants and their wounded made a hasty withdrawal to Maridi, leaving Amadi under the control of the SPLA. [passage omitted]

Newspapers' 'Hostile Moves' Criticized

EA131726 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawn, minister of culture and information and official government spokesman, has voiced strong criticism over the hostile moves made by some local and foreign newspapers and magazines and foreign news agencies.

His excellency said: The Council of Ministers has closely monitored internally and externally this counter-information move and this has revealed the ideological and dogmatic strategies of the political forces spreading biased lies and rumors with Sudan's security and unity as their target. In this respect, his excellency said: The points of departure of John Garang's group are racial

and the rebels attempt to give their orientations a modern look by introducing political terms in ambiguous talk about the distribution of wealth, slavery, and persecution with the aim of gaining the sympathy of international public opinion.

His excellency added that the rebels and their helpers are preparing to spread fabricated news about racism by various methods and allegations. The official spokesman stressed the rumors about slavery satisfied the demands of the Western imagination which amuses itself with such news supplied by some Sudanese people, despite the firm facts that Sudanese people are now equal in rights and duties. His excellency the minister specified seven rightist newspapers as working for their own narrow interests and against the higher interests of the homeland. He added that four newspapers of the leftist parties are committing the same mistake. His excellency the minister mentioned the names of the concerned newspapers.

Al-Tawm Muhamamd al-Tawm demanded that the media realize the dangers to which the country is being subjected. His excellency also asked media men and journalists to work to promote national unity and educate society about the truel Sudanese national values and principles.

His excellency the minister said it was a common error for the media to talk about African parties while all are Africans. The government's official spokesman, Al-Tawm, stressed that the government rejects being blackmailed by the voicing of the poisonous slogans of John Garang, which call for the abolition of the September laws and abrogation of real or imagined defense agreements. He added: What Garang has continued to allege cannot be unknown to the intelligent or unintelligent politician. His excellency mentioned in this connection that a number of Garang's alleged slogans are being used by some quarters, internally, to solve political differences with other quarters for political motives.

The official spokesman said the centrist force, the government, is aware of all the dimensions of those dangers. He stressed that the government's role as custodian lies in maintaining the equilibrium between various quarters and running the affairs of the Sudanese people moderately, without responding either to religious frenzy or fervent leftism: Our loyalty is only to this country. He said the government will not follow others' trends and will continue to make its own way, maintaining its character despite the difficult circumstances and no quarter can drag the centrist to its philosophies to shed its opponents. [sentence as heard].

Al-Tawm took note of what was published by a number of local publications and Western magazines, among them the HERALD TRIBUNE and THE ECONOMIST which published news and press interviews which said Sudan had no one who felt its pains and that there was a flourishing slave trade in Sudan. The articles cited what Bona Malwal, editor in chief of the SUDAN TIMES, reported about Dinka [words indistinct] they also cited Dr Hasan al-Turabi that arming of tribes was a dangerous situation.

Al-Mahdi Praises Reagan-Gorbachev Summit

JN141345 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Dec (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has expressed Sudan's appreciation for and happiness at the positive result of the recent meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington. He described the results as a historic step to ease tension and seek peace. Al-Mahdi stated this following a meeting with the Soviet ambassador here yesterday. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all fields.

Tunisia

Premier, Officials View Revising Constitution

LD120458 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The subject of revising the Constitution of the Tunisian Republic was at the center of the working session Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche held yesterday evening at the governmental palace in the Casbah. Leaders of political parties and various high-ranking officials, law figures, and university officials attended the session. Their talks were characterized by a discussion of the various legal aspects of revising the Constitution, in light of the orientations noted by the president of the Republic in his 7 November statement.

Officials of the opposition parties that attended the meeting described it as historic and an extremely positive precedent that deserves praise and appreciation.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iran Attacks Cypriot Tanker Carrying Saudi Oil

JN120928 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Dubayy, 12 Dec (INA)—Iranian gunboats attacked a Cypriot supertanker this morning. The tanker was carrying 232,000 tonnes of oil after having left the Saudi port of Ra's Tannurah for the Strait of Hormuz. INA's correspondent in Abu Dhabi reported that the supertanker "Pivot," which was loaded with Saudi oil, was attacked while in Arabian Gulf waters 17 kms off the the coast of Dubayy. The Iranian attack on the Cypriot tanker, which was also flying the Cypriot flag, took place at 1000 local time, 0600 GMT.

Regional maritime sources told INA's correspondent they believe that the Iranian gunboats involved in the attack on the Cypriot supertanker came from a base on Abu Musa Island, located in the middle of the Arabian Gulf. Abu Musa Island is one of the three Arab islands that Iran occupied during the rule of the shah.

Fire 'Under Control'

NC121555 Paris AFP in English 1545 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, Dec 12 (AFP)—The fire on the Cypriot supertanker "Pivot," attacked Saturday by Iranian gunboats in the southern Gulf, has been brought under control, regional shipping sources said.

The 240,000-tonne tanker, owned by Troodos Shipping of Piraeus, was anchored off the coast of Dubai several hours after the attack.

Witnesses said the ship was badly holed in the raid, but the owners said the 40 Greek and Filipino crewmembers were safely evacuated by tugboats and U.S. military helicopters.

Bahrain

Group Warns Against Extraditing KAL Suspect

NC121548 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec 12 (AFP)—A previously unknown group warned Bahrain, in a statement issued here Saturday, that it would retaliate if the Gulf state extradited an Asian woman suspect of sabotaging a Korean Air (KAL) passenger plane that disappeared November 29.

The statement, signed by the "Friends of Mayumi Hachiya in the Middle East" and typed in Arabic, warned Bahrain not to extradite the young woman to South Korea, "especially since she had nothing to do with South Korean allegations in the airplane affair."

The group said that it was capable of carrying out "reprisals and vengeance" and would hold the Bahraini Government responsible for the woman's well-being. The statement was delivered to Western news agencies in the Lebanese capital.

Press reports in Seoul, quoting government sources, said Saturday that the extradition was likely to take place early next week.

South Korean officials suspect the woman and a male companion who committed suicide when the couple was detained in Bahrain, of being North Korean agents and of having planted a bomb on the KAL jet that went down with 115 people on board. North Korea has rejected the charges.

The woman, who boarded the plane in Baghdad and disembarked in Abu Dhabi before it continued its ill-fated journey, was carrying a false Japanese passport in the name of Mayumi Hachiya.

Flotsam from the wreck of the plane has been spotted in the Andaman Sea off the coast of India, KAL confirmed Friday.

King Husayn, Jordanian Delegation Begin Visit

'Official' Talks Open

JN121858 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, began in Manama this evening. Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff; Amjad al-Majali, Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain; and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Bahraini representatives at the talks were His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah ibn Hamid Al Khalifah, minister of interior; Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, first under secretary for immigration and passport affairs at the Ministry of Interior; and Staff Major General Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff.

His Majesty King Husayn and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama from Kuwait this evening on the second leg of their tour of states in the Arabian Gulf. During his visit, his majesty will hold talks with leaders of these fraternal states as part of continued consultations and the exchange of views on fateful issues. The tour also seeks to enhance the march of joint Arab solidarity and to follow up the positive results of the

historic Amman summit. His majesty was given an official reception at Manama airport. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, led those who received the Jordanian monarch. [passage omitted]

The motorcade for his majesty and his highness the amir of Bahrain traveled to the guest palace, where his majesty will reside during his visit to fraternal Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Monarch Departs

JN130939 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, 13 Dec (WAKH)—King Husayn of Jordan left Manama today following a 2-day visit to Bahrain, undertaken within a tour of regional states.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, led those who saw off the Jordanian king. Also present were His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; and a number of Bahraini civilian and military officials.

During his visit, King Husayn held talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and ways to promote them, as well as Gulf and Arab issues, especially developments in the Iraq-Iran war. They also discussed implementing the Amman summit resolutions, clearing the Arab atmosphere, strengthening Arab solidarity, and issues of mutual interest.

Kuwait

Egyptian Defense Minister Begins Visit

LD140918 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 14 December—Muhammad 'Abd al-Hasim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense, arrived in Kuwait this morning at the head of a military delegation.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, minister of defense; Faysal al-Dawud, under secretary at the Defense Ministry; Staff Major General Mizyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani', chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces; and senior Kuwaiti officers.

Makes Arrival Statement

LD141114 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Today at 1230, Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent, received in his office Egyptian Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Hasim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister, minister of defense and war production, and commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait. Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of defense; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, Egyptian minister of state for cabinet affairs; and the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait also attended the meeting.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah arrived in Kuwait today at the head of a military delegation visiting the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

In a statement to KUNA on his arrival, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah noted that he carries a message to the Kuwaiti amir from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He affirmed Egypt's firm stand in support of sisterly Kuwait. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah also asserted that Egypt constantly experiences events alongside Kuwait and the region, and that it considers the security of Kuwait and Egypt to be an indivisible, Arab security.

He commented that the talks during his visit will cover all matters of interest to both fraternal countries. The Egyptian official affirmed Egypt's commitment to do everything that the Arab nation asks of it and to absolutely reject attacks by Iran on ships and tankers in the Arab Gulf. He also indicated that Iranian obduracy and rigidity are the cause of the current situation in the Gulf.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah commented that the War Production Board and the Arab Industrialization Authority in Egypt can meet Arab needs in terms of both quantity and quality.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah affirmed that relations between Egypt and Kuwait at the level of defense ministries never ceased, and that contacts continued even before last month's announcement that diplomatic relations had been restored with the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt.

He said that Egypt was never far from Kuwait and that it remained close to us with its enduring Arab feelings. Shaykh Salim then affirmed the extent of the benefits Kuwait derives from Egyptian expertise, both military and nonmilitary.

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives for Talks, Leaves

LD121650 Kuwait KUNA in English 1456 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived here Saturday afternoon and immediately went into talks with H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Minister of amiri diwan affairs, Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad told reporters that the discussions covered such issues as the Iran-Iraq war, developments in the Arab world and bilateral links. He did not go into details.

King Husayn had arrived in Kuwait at 2:15 p.m. today accompanied by his Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and a number of senior advisors.

He was received at the airport by H.H. the amir, H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah and other senior statesmen.

The Jordanian monarch left Kuwait at 04:45 p.m.

In a related announcement, Radio Muscat reported today that King Husayn would be arriving Oman tomorrow for talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id aimed at effecting resolutions taken at the Amman extraordinary Arab summit of last November dealing with Arab solidarity.

Minister Views King Husayn Visit, INF Summit

LD132146 Kuwait KUNA in English 1520 GMT 13 Dec 87

[By Ibrahim al-Fadli]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13 (KUNA)—State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid said Sunday Kuwait feels strongly about the necessity of continuous consultations to reap the benefits of implementing resolutions of last November's extraordinary Arab summit in Amman.

Speaking to reporters following the weekly cabinet session, Al-Rashid said yesterday's visit to Kuwait by King Husayn of Jordan produced constructive and fruitful results that fulfilled a desire of H.H. the amir for stronger Arab relations.

Al-Rashid pointed out that continued Arab contacts would help clear misunderstandings and put into effect the summit resolutions calling for greater Arab cooperation and solidarity.

Asked about the recent superpower summit, the state minister said such meetings are fruitful if in addition to solving superpower problems, they played a role in settling regional issues, particularly that most Third World countries are seeking solutions to their political and economic problems.

The Gorbachev-Reagan talks, he went on, opened a new channel for defusing international tensions through the elimination of intermediate nuclear missiles, though they represent only three percent of overall nuclear weapons.

Al-Rashid added that Kuwait, as a developing nation, believes the superpowers have a role to play in settling the pressing issues facing Third World countries.

"It is natural we hope for future summits of the two powers as long as they are leading to solutions to mankind's problems from all aspects," the senior Kuwaiti official went on.

The Mideast region, he noted, believes its protracted problems such as the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian issue, should be given priority by the superpowers.

Without mentioning the West, particularly the U.S. by name, Al-Rashid criticised them for viewing human rights as only the right of world Jewry to immigrate, when an entire people, the Palestinians, are being subjected to atrocities and forced to leave their homeland.

Kuwait, Al-Rashid stressed, strongly believes in human rights not only in the Middle East, Asia and Latin America, but Europe and the U.S. as well.

Amir Accepts Invitation to GCC Summit

LD132145 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1408 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 Dec (KUNA)—It was officially announced here today that the amir of Kuwait has accepted an invitation from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to attend the GCC summit. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Riyadh on 26 December.

Following the weekly cabinet session under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, a high-ranking spokesman for the Kuwaiti Government stated that Shaykh Jabir had accepted the invitation. He stressed the extreme importance of the conference, which will provide an opportunity for consultations on various issues of interest to the GCC member countries. This will bolster the organization's fraternal march and the close relations among the GCC peoples.

The spokesman, Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, noted that the cabinet was informed of the contents of the message Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir had sent in his capacity as chairman of the ICO to President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The message was sent on the occasion of the summit conference the two leaders held. [passage omitted]

Oman

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives for Talks

JN131914 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Muscat this evening on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit, he will hold talks with His Majesty Sultan

Qabus ibn Sa'id on current Arab issues and will follow up on bilateral relations and the resolutions of the Amman Arab summit. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Greets Jordan's King Husayn on Arrival

JN131117 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1027 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Doha, 13 Dec (WAKH)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Doha from Manama at noon today on a brief working visit to Qatar.

The Jordanian monarch was received by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense; and a number of officials. [passage omitted]

'Official' Talks Open

JN131151 Doha QNA in Arabic 1127 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Doha, 13 Dec (QNA)—Official Qatari-Jordanian talks led by Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and His Majesty King Husayn began in the guest palace at 1220 today.

Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent, defense minister, and commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces, attended the talks for Qatar. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i represented the Jordanian side.

QNA has learned that the talks concerned major Arab issues and the current regional situation in light of developments on the regional, Arab, and international level. They also discussed the efforts being made by the United Nations and the UN secretary general to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598. The talks covered following up the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit, which met in Amman last month, as well as following up current efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and clear the Arab atmosphere. This is to safeguard the interests of the Arab nation and to entrench pan-Arab security.

QNA has additionally learned that the two sides discussed ways of bolstering the fraternal relations that exist between the two countries in all fields.

Following the talks, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani hosted a luncheon in honor of his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and the delegation accompanying him.

Saudi Arabia

Moroccan Foreign Minister Filali Begins Visit

LD132016 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] His Excellency Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan foreign minister, this evening arrived in Jeddah on a several-day visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by Salim Sunbul, director of the Western Region Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry, and a number of other officials.

Arrives for Talks in Riyadh

LD140948 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0720 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 14 Dec (SPA)—Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali arrived in Riyadh from Jeddah this morning accompanied by members of his delegation. [passage omitted] He and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal are to lead their respective national delegations at the joint Saudi-Moroccan committee meetings, which are scheduled to be held later today. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Meets With Jordanian King at Airport

JN131357 Doha QNA in Arabic 1258 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Dec (QNA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, today held a meeting with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, who arrived at Abu Dhabi airport from Doha. During their meeting, which was held at Abu Dhabi airport, the two leaders reviewed the current Arab and regional situation, as well as ways to implement the resolutions of the extraordinary Amman Arab summit.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid led those who received the Jordanian monarch at the airport.

Visitor Departs

JN131702 Manama WAKH in English 1626 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 13 (GNA)—King Husayn of Jordan left here this evening after a brief visit to the UAE during which he held talks with President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The two exchanged views on current Arab [word indistinct] prominent among which are the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and efforts being exerted to achieve Arab solidarity in the light of the recent Amman summit resolutions.

President Presides Over Cabinet Meeting

JN131327 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The meeting discussed the topics on the agenda, made several decisions, and took some measures. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; and Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president. It was also attended by the RCC members, the Ba'th Party Regional Command members, the head of the presidential office, the ministers, and a number of officials.

Reportage on 'Aziz Visit to United States

Meets With Vernon Walters

JN111942 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Vernon Walters, U.S. representative to the United Nations, in New York last night. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed issues discussed at the Soviet-U.S. summit with regard to the Iraq-Iran war and ways to comprehensively implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 in accordance with the sequence of its clauses.

Reviews Summit With Murphy

JN122036 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs, in New York last night. During the meeting they reviewed the results of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington, as well as UN efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Returns to Baghdad 14 Dec

JN141011 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this morning after a visit of several days to the United States. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 11 Dec

JN120605 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait this evening on a visit scheduled to last for several days.

USSR's Sytenko Arrives in Baghdad 13 Dec

JN132020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—The Soviet leadership's envoy Mikhail Sytenko arrived here this evening on an official visit to Iraq scheduled to last several days. In a statement to INA, he said the visit is aimed at briefing officials in Iraq on the results of the meetings between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He added that during the visit he will discuss issues of common interest.

Trade Minister Returns From Brazil, Jordan

JN120855 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0823 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih returned to Baghdad last night at the conclusion of a visit of several days to Brazil and Jordan. During his visit to Brazil, the minister signed a protocol for trade and economic cooperation to increase and diversify the size of trade exchanges and to intensify the participation of Brazilian companies in the implementation of some projects in Iraq.

The minister also led the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the 48th session of the Arab Economic Council which recently ended in Amman. The Council discussed topics on the agenda, which included the secretary general's report, the integral program for developing trade exchanges, the united customs law, the election of a new secretary general for the Council, and the General Secretariat's general budget for next year.

RCC Issues Decision on Volunteer Service

JN131837 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] The RCC has issued a decision on the service of volunteers in the dissolved special regiments. The following is the text of this decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Decision No 898 dated 8 December 1987

Decision: Under the provisions of Clause A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decided the following during its session on 8 December 1987:

1. The service of volunteers in the dissolved special duties regiments will substitute for reserve service. Those who are currently drafted in the reserve service will be demobilized.

2. The defense minister will implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN111413 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—Iraqi forces killed 13 Iranian personnel as of 1600 [1300 GMT] today. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said that Iraqi forces in the battlefields had destroyed a bulldozer, damaged a shovel [preceding word in English], and destroyed one tank and damaged another. The spokesman added that four vehicles, four machineguns, an infantry position, and two observation posts were also destroyed or burned, and two ammunition dumps were blown up.

Communique No 2,947

JN111754 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,947 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their combat activities, our valiant Armed Forces prove their skills, courage, and strong belief in their just cause. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. An enemy soldier was killed, a bulldozer was destroyed, a vehicle was burned, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. Three scoundrels were killed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Two enemy soldiers were killed, a machinegun emplacement was destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. A heavy machinegun emplacement was destroyed and its personnel were killed and an observation post was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan killed three scoundrels, burned three vehicles, and destroyed a single-barreled machinegun, an observation post, and one tank while damaging another.

6. Four enemy personnel were killed, a machinegun emplacement and an infantry position were destroyed, and a shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. Eleven enemy boats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port last night. The port force confronted them and forced them to flee.

8. The vile Khomeyniites shelled the city of Basra and the villages of Khanaqin and Badrah with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling martyred 2 citizens, including a woman, wounded 14 others, including a child, and damaged several houses, an elementary school, a coffee shop, and several other shops. May God make paradise the final abode of our martyrs and grant swift recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 December 1987

10 Killed in Tanker Attack

JN121448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1324 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] London, 12 Dec (INA)—The British magazine LLOYDS LIST said today that 10 crewmen of the Iranian oil tanker "Susangird", which was hit by an Iraqi missile for the second time yesterday, were killed in the incident. The magazine, which is issued by the British insurance company Lloyds, said the crew of the Iranian tanker abandoned it after a fire erupted in oil storage tank No 1. The magazine also pointed out that the rescue ships could not extend any assistance to the oil tanker, which weighs 467,218 tonnes, as a result of sea storms in the region.

The magazine reported that the tanker was carrying Iranian crude oil from Khark Island and heading toward Larak Island when Iraqi fighter planes fired a missile at it on Wednesday. The fighter planes also fired a missile at the tanker the day before yesterday, Thursday. There were 35 crewmen on board.

'New Losses' Inflicted

JN121634 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1618 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Through their activities on the battlefront today, the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted new losses on enemy personnel, equipment, and weapons. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said the Iraqi forces killed four enemy personnel, destroyed one infantry position, blew up two ammunition dumps, and destroyed four vehicles, one machinegun, three observation posts, and one gun emplacement. He added that the Iranian forces shelled residential areas in the city of Khanaqin with long-range artillery.

Communique No 2,948

JN121724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,948 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors, inflicting new losses on our country's unjust Khomeyniite enemies as follows:

1. Two large vehicles were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. Five infantry positions were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. One enemy soldier was killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Our units in the IV Army Corps secor east of Maysan killed three enemy personnel, destroyed four infantry positions and three observation posts, burned one vehicle, and blew up one ammunition dump.

5. One vehicle was burned and one machinegun emplacement and one infantry position were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. One single-barreled machinegun was destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

7. Nine enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port, but the port's brave force confronted them with its weapons and forced them to flee.

8. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the city of Khanaqin this morning with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 December 1987

5 Iranians Killed

JN131436 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has reported that the Iranian losses accrued in combat operations over the last 24 hours were five killed and a 106-mm gun, a medium machinegun emplacement, seven infantry positions, and an observation post destroyed. The Iraqi military spokesman told INA today that the war operations took place in the I Special Army Corps sector, east of Al-Basrah, east of Maysan, east of Tigris, and in the VII Army Corps sectors.

The following is the text of the Iraqi military spokesman's statement:

Iranian losses in the I Special Army Corps sector included the destruction of an infantry position and the killing of its personnel. Three positions were destroyed and the personnel manning them were killed in the central sector. An infantry position was destroyed in the east of the Al-Basrah sector. A soldier was killed and an observation post was destroyed in the east of the Maysan sector. Two personnel were killed in the east of the Tigris sector. Two personnel were killed and a 106-mm gun, two infantry positions, and a medium machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

Thus, the Iranian losses amount to five killed and a 106-mm gun, seven infantry positions, a medium machinegun emplacement, and an observation post destroyed.

[Dated] 13 December 1987

Communique No 2,949

JN131718 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,949 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued their activities last night and today, inflicting new losses on the aggressors as follows:

1. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

2. Three infanty positione were destroyed and their occupants were injured in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. One personnel shelter was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. One scoundrel was killed and one observation post was destroyed in the V Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Two enemy personnel were killed and one 106-mm gun, two infantry positions, and one medium machinegun emplacement were destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 December 1987

6 Iranians Killed

JN141454 Baghdad INA in English 1442 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Bagdhad, Dec. 14, INA—An Iraqi military spokesman said that Iranian enemy losses along battlefronts today included killing six troops and destroying five infantry bunkers and an observation post. In a statement to INA this afternoon, the spokesman said enemy losses also included destroying a personnel position, exploding three ammunition dumps and destroying and setting ablaze two big vehicles.

Molotov Cocktails Thrown at U.S. Consulate

TA131915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at the backyard of the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem approximately 20 minutes ago. One of them ignited but no damage was done and no one was hurt. The police have detained 10 suspects for questioning. Our correspondent reports that the Consulate spokesman expressed regret over the incident.

Attack 'Local Operation'

TA132113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] The Jerusalem police believe that one terrorist squad is responsible for the hurling of Molotov cocktails at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem and at an Egged bus traveling on Saladin Street this evening. No one was hurt and no damage was caused in either of these incidents. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that as a result of the attempted attack on the U.S. Consulate, 22 suspects have been rounded up for questioning. Senior Jerusalem police sources said that this evening's events in the capital are apparently unrelated to the current wave of disturbances in the territories and is merely the result of a local operation.

Molotov Cocktail in E. Jerusalem; No Injuries

TA131821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled this evening at an Egged bus traveling along Saladin Street in East Jerusalem. The bottle blew up, but there were no casualties or damage.

Shamir on Territories, Consulate Attack

TA141223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on 14 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, do you share the views expressed by members of the Herut Movement to the effect that comments by Alignment leaders—by Mr Peres—are heating up the atmosphere in the territories?

[Shamir] I take exception to the inclination toward constantly relating activities which endanger our security to internal disputes in Israel. One should clearly distinguish between the security activity which we all support and political disagreements which exist in a democratic state.

[Ben-'Ami] There is talk of extraordinary daring on the part of youths in the territories when confronting IDF soldiers.

[Shamir] One cannot speak of daring when referring to terrorists and thugs who are incited to take action against our security forces. They are only trying to see what they can accomplish. These criminals become even more defiant when they see that the Army is trying not to hit, kill, or wound, because they know that warnings, rubber bullets, and tear gas do not kill. One should not see this as any special daring. One should regret that this leads to more bloodshed. None of us is interested in bloodshed.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, do you view last night's incidents in Jerusalem, including the Molotov cocktails thrown at the U.S. Consulate, as an indication of a deterioration in the situation over the past few days?

[Shamir] Well, I do not think this should be viewed as a special increase in the degree of gravity. This is a continuation of the disruptions of order and, with the help of the security forces, we are dealing with these activities. I hope they will end soon.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, how should we view the remarks by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas on Syrian involvement in the gliders incident?

[Shanir] Well, we are all familiar with Mustafa Talas' conceited style and I do not want to enter into a public debate with him.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you, sir.

Violence Rises in Territories; More Casualties

Balatah Inquiry Conducted

TA111601 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] An initial inquiry by security forces into events this afternoon in the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus showed that dozens of demonstrators surrounded a Border Police force and hurled various objects at it, including axes. The force tried to disperse the demonstrations by using tear gas and rubber bullets, but when this proved useless, they fired at the demonstrators. As a result, 3 border policemen were lightly wounded; 3 demonstrators were killed: 2 young men and 1 young woman; and 11 were wounded.

Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, said these were grave events and pointed out that the security forces are doing everything possible to avoid a situation in which they have to fire unless they are forced to defend themselves.

A Molotov cocktail was hurled this afternoon at Egged bus No 25 traveling to the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood in Jerusalem. The bottle blew up and caused light damage to the bus but nobody was injured.

IDF Wounds 3 in Jabalyah

TA111648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] In the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip three people, including a father and his small daughter, were wounded when an IDF patrol tried to escape from an agitated mob. Dozens of youths stoned the soldiers' patrol vehicle. The soldiers fired warning shots in the air, but when this failed they fired at the demonstrators.

In other incidents, a parked Egged bus was set alight in Rafah and was totally burned. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a military truck. There were no injuries or damage.

In another incident, two youths hurled two Molotov cocktails at two police cars, one of which belonged to Chief Superintendent Eli Elimelekh, but no damage was done and no one was hurt. Besides these events, there were also more minor disturbances—including student demonstrations, roadblocks, and tire burnings—in many places in the the Gaza Strip.

Curfew Imposed on 'Askar Camp

TA120714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] A curfew was imposed this morning on the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus after masked youths tried to incite the inhabitants into rioting. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several tires were set on fire and stones were thrown in the camp. At present calm prevails in the area. In the Balatah refugee camp the curfew is still in force. Last night three inhabitants of the camp who were killed during yesterday's disturbances were buried.

Nabulus Commercial Strike

TA120932 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] In Nabulus a commercial strike is in effect this morning and studies in the schools have been canceled. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. Studies have also been disrupted elsewhere in Judaea and Samaria today. Near the Islamic College in Hebron several youths stoned soldiers and erected roadblocks this morning. In the Balatah and 'Askar refugee camps near Nabulus the curfew is continuing this morning.

There were disturbances in the Gaza Strip this morning, but not as violent as those of the last days. In Khan Yunus tires were set on fire and roadblocks were erected, and in several places the Army had to intervene to restore order.

A massive Army presence is noticeable in the streets of the cities. Yesterday the Army forces in the territories were greatly strengthened in order to prevent the escalation of disturbances.

5 Wounded in Gaza 12 Dec

TA121131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Five people were wounded during disturbances in the Gaza Strip this morning, two of them seriously. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a border police patrol in Khan Yunus. The soldiers of the patrol fired at the assailants, wounding one of them. Elsewhere, a youth was wounded when a group of inhabitants threw stones at an Army patrol. In the southern part of the Gaza Strip there were occasional stone throwing incidents and clashes with the security forces.

In Hebron a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in the square near police headquarters. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. The curfew in the 'Askar and the Balatah refugee camps is continuing, and in Nabulus a commercial strike is in effect.

In East Jerusalem also an almost total commercial strike is in effect this morning. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that traffic in the eastern part of the city is very thin. Business owners are standing outside their closed shops and restaurants and there is an increased border police force presence in the streets.

'Askar, Balatah Curfew Lifted

TA130826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The situation in the territories remained quiet but tense this morning. At today's Cabinet meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will report on the violence over the past few days. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] The curfew on the Balatah and 'Askar refugee camps near Nabulus has been lifted early this morning. Our reporter says that security reinforcements continue to patrol the territories. The soldiers have received clear orders to avoid any unnecessary friction with the population, to use the utmost restraint, but to react swiftly to any disturbances. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Balatah Curfew Reset 13 Dec

TA131010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Stones were thrown at vehicles in several places in Judaea and Samaria today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that stones were thrown near the Balatah refugee camp, where the curfew has been reimposed now. Stone roadblocks were erected in the Gaza Strip. The security forces established order. There is a commercial strike in Nabulus today. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 13 December adds that "A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli vehicle in Hebron a short while ago. The vehicle was slightly damaged, but nobody was hurt."]

3 IDF Soldiers Wounded

TA131107 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Three IDF soldiers were slightly wounded by shattered glass and a Hebron resident was wounded by IDF firing in an incident that took place in Hebron at noon. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed reports:

[Begin recording] Stones were thrown at a No 440 Egged bus near the Islamic University in Hebron. Three IDF soldiers on the bus were injured by shattered glass. Fire was then opened at the stone throwers, resulting in the wounding of a local youth. All in all, relative quiet prevailed in Judaea and Samaria until noon, in contrast with the stormy weekend. A curfew was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp this morning after rioting by a group of youths. A curfew was also imposed on the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus after stone roadblocks were erected there and stones were thrown at an IDF force. Several stone roadblocks were erected at noon on the road leading from Nabulus to Qalqilyah. An IDF force left for the site to see to it that they are removed. [passage omitted]

'Stormy' Riots in Gaza 13 Dec

TA131210 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1130 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] Two IDF soldiers were wounded this morning by stones thrown at a military patrol at the entrance to the town of Gaza. The wounded were transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. At noon a youth, a resident of Rafah, was also brought to this hospital with a bullet in his chest. His condition is listed as critical. The soldiers as well as the local youth were wounded in the course of stormy demonstrations in Gaza and Rafah streets, when youths tried to attack patrolling soldiers with stones and other objects. Disturbances are continuing throughout the Gaza Strip at the moment. A Border Policeman suffered a bruise on his arm during the past hour and required medical treatment.

Tempers are stormy in Gaza after instigatory elements spread rumors to the effect that those wounded in Gaza Strip demonstrations who are brought to hospitals in Israel are killed in the operating theaters. Other rumors speak of attacks on Gazans on the streets of Israeli towns. All of the above incited school students to go to the streets for demonstrations. At the same time, traffic on the main arteries of the Gaza Strip is proceeding normally, particularly on the roads that bypass the region's towns. IDF and Border Police patrols are safeguarding the intersections prone to problems and removing the stone throwers.

Gaza Students Demonstrate

TA131225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] A commercial strike is being staged in Nabulus and Ramallah today. A similar strike is also being held throughout the Gaza Strip. An ITIM correspondent reports that roadblocks were erected on the main roads of the Strip. Thousands of students and youths are marching in the streets, equipped with stones, iron bars and wooden poles, and carrying PLO signs. They are trying to attack every Israeli vehicle traveling in the Gaza Strip. As a result, the entrance to the town of Gaza, from the direction of the Nahal 'Oz roadblock, is blocked. The ITIM correspondent adds that only a few of the Gaza Strip residents employed in Israel left for work today.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 13 December adds: "The Jabalyah refugee camp is still closed down by the security forces in the wake of disturbances over the weekend." Also, "Studies were disrupted in schools; a considerable number of residents of the Strip prevented their children from going to school under the tense circumstances."]

The Cabinet this morning discussed the situation in the territories for an hour, and heard a review by the prime minister.

Balatah Curfew Lifted 14 Dec

TA140549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] The curfew at the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus was lifted around midnight, following another day of violence there yesterday. A senior military source says a group of youths has been operating within Balatah for some time, trying to take over the leadership of the camp, and carrying out violent actions to encourage residents of other refugee camps to step up the fight against security forces.

Disturbances Resume 14 Dec

TA140735 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0730 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Disturbances are continuing in the Gaza Strip now. Blocks were erected on streets in several places in the Gaza Strip, and youths are throwing stones at Israeli vehicles. Most of the Gaza Strip residents employed in Israel left for work this morning.

Balatah Curfew Reimposed

TA140917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] A curfew was again placed on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus after it was lifted last night. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that disturbances and stonethrowing incidents resumed this morning.

Gazans Wounded; Hebron Riots

TA141020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Disturbances continued in the Gaza Strip this morning, although to a lesser degree than yesterday. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that IDF soldiers fired at and wounded three residents this morning because they endangered the soldiers' lives. There are disruptions in schools in some areas of the Gaza Strip.

This morning students at the Hebron politechnical institute set tires on fire, threw stones at Israeli cars, and hoisted a PLO flag. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that IDF units dispersed the demonstrators by shooting in the air and using tear gas. [passage omitted]

Al-Jalazun Resident Wounded

TA141144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riots continued in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. In the Al-Jalazun refugee camp a youth who failed to obey the soldiers' order to halt was slightly wounded in the leg. [passage omitted]

Youth Killed; Unrest Subsides

TA141358 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Here is a report just in: An inhabitant of Khan Yunus was killed at noon in the course of disturbances in the Gaza Strip. Three inhabitants of Rafah had been wounded earlier in the morning. Our correspondent Ezra Yanuv reports:

[Begin recording] A youth from Khan Yunus was killed at noon today, apparently by shots fired by IDF soldiers in one of the clashes during disturbances that have been taking place in the town since the early hours of the morning. Earlier, three inhabitants of Rafah were wounded by shots in the course of similar disturbances. Two of them were taken to the hospital in Ashqelon and have undergone surgery. The late youth and the third wounded man were taken to Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus.

In the course of the disturbances and demonstrations in the southern town of the Gaza Strip, the security forces had to use their weapons to defend themselves against stones that were showered on them while they were patrolling the main highways. The disturbances and riots are now dying down in the towns of the area. [end recording]

Cabinet Discusses Territories; Media Criticized

TA131309 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in the Cabinet meeting that the terrorists' attempt to disrupt normal life in Israel motivates them to disrupt order. Mr Shamir said the security forces have much success, while those who disturb public order have little success. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, said the latest incidents in the territories are linked to the UN discussions on the Palestinian issue and are an expression of the frustration of the Palestinians. Lt Gen Shomron stressed that the disturbances should not be regarded as a civilian uprising, estimating that the riots in the territories will die down.

Minister Sharon demanded that the Cabinet hold a detailed debate on the war against terrorism. Our political affairs correspondent points out that during the meeting several ministers, headed by Moda'i and Sharon, attacked the state media for their coverage of the latest security events in the territories and in Lebanon, claiming that the state media damage public morale and exaggerate when describing events.

4 No-Confidence Motions

TA131952 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Four factions in the Knesset presented no-confidence motions in the government in view of the security situation in the territories. The factions which presented the no-confidence motions are: HADASH, the Progressive List for Peace, MAPAM, and the Citizens Rights Movements.

Herut Attacks Labor

TA131732 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1700 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] The Herut Movement this evening sharply attacked the Labor Party, accusing it of encouraging the terrorist organizations' actions in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the Herut Movement spokesman issued a communique this evening which says, among other things, that the Labor Party leaders' attitude of shrugging off responsibility breeds the terrorist organizations' policy of grand terrrorist schemes. Herut also says that recent statements made by Labor Party leaders instill an atmosphere of fear and discouragement that accompanies the increased agitation in the territories.

Cabinet Statement on Situation

TA131803 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein reads the communique issued at the end of the weekly Cabinet session on 13 December—in Hebrew, with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] During its weekly session, and sitting in its capacity as Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, the Cabinet heard a report by the chief of staff and members of the defense establishment on defense-related incidents that occurred over the past week: the naval encounter with the Hizballah vessel and events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Regarding the order violations in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the prime minister, who is acting defense minister, summed up the debate by saying that the failure of the terrorist organizations to develop the type of terrorist activity that would affect Israel's security leads to the organization of disturbances like those we have witnessed recently. The majority of the population in these regions wants to see public order restored, but has been exposed to terrorism waged by the minority. The IDF continues to wage a successful battle against terrorism, evincing full control of the situation, contrary to the descriptions of the situation, which are greatly exaggerated. The IDF and the security forces will continue to employ all the necessary measures to guarantee public order and the well-being of all the inhabitants.

Israeli Arabs Protest Crackdown in Territories

TA140751 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Dec 87 p 4

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher and David Rudge]

[Text] The IDF crackdown in the territories has touched off a storm of protest by Israeli Arabs and Druse, with Druse MK [Knesset Member] Zaydan 'Atshah saying that Israel faces a "civil war" if a solution to the Palestinian problem is not found. "I think this is the beginning of a rebellion," added Labour MK 'Abdal-Wahab Darawshah, as Arab MKs, municipal leaders, writers and student organizations all denounced the recent IDF killings in the territories. They also said that the unrest demonstrated the need for negotiations to establish an independent Palestinian state.

At Haifa University, 100 Arab students demonstrated yesterday for the creation of a Palestinian state and in Nazareth several dozen people marched down the main street in protest against the IDF crackdown.

The head of the association of Israeli Arab municipalities, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, warned that if the situation continued to deteriorate, "There is a danger of the violence spilling over to the Arab sector (in Israel)."

The chairman of the Committee for Druse Initiative, Jamal Mu'addi, sent a telegram to the defence minister calling on him to withdraw the IDF from the large civilian centres as the first step in a complete withdrawal from all of the territories.

'Atshah said: "The reaction of the IDF, while justified to prevent Israeli lives being endangered, gives Israel a tarnished image in the rest of the world." The Shinuy MK added that over the long term, "we are facing a civil war" in the absence of a negotiated solution.

"Already non-Jews represent 38 per cent of the total population (of Israel and the territories). If and when that population reaches 50 per cent, there is almost certain to be civil war, as we have seen in Cyprus and Lebanon.

"As a loyal citizen of Israel, my first interest is insuring the stability and security of the state. While the IDF can secure the borders, it is much more difficult to impose order on people who are diametrically opposed to the Israeli regime.

"The solution has to be a negotiated settlement, with the participation of Arab countries and Arab organizations, even if it means including the PLO," added 'Atshah. He said he was "definitely not in favour" of direct negotiations with the PLO, as such. But he noted that pro-PLO Palestinians in the territories have their own representatives.

Darawshah took issue with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator in the territories, who blamed the disturbances on PLO agitation, and with Tzomet MK Refa'el Eytan, who said that the unrest could be quelled by expelling inciters.

"Goren puts the responsible leaders, the moderate leaders in prison," said Darawshah in an Israel Radio interview. "Terrorism can't be quashed with an iron fist, not with expulsions, administrative detentions, and not with the demolition of houses."

"Violence only breeds more violence," Husayn said.

Mitzna' Interviewed on Security in Territories

TA131839 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Interview with Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, by Yoni Ben-Menahem on 13 December, place not given—recorded in Hebrew, with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Maj Gen Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command: Following the debriefings you heard, and regarding the reaction of the security forces, was it really necessary to see all the casualties that have been reported in Judaea and Samaria?

[Mitzna'] Casualties are always unnecessary, and I would like to express my regret over all the casualties: the three killed in the Balatah refugee camp, the dead person from Nabulus, and all the people who were injured in those incidents. The debriefings we conducted indicated that in those cases, the Army and Security Forces found themselves in situations in which, despite warnings and the use of all the other measures at their disposal, they were forced to open fire. Naturally, the outcome was sad.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you accept the statement that has been made by the media quite often recently that this is a civil uprising to protest military actions in Judaea and Samaria?

[Mitzna'] I believe that the events in the field are controlled and supervised by us. It is true that since Friday, and against the backdrop of events in Balatah, too, among other reasons, the entire region—including Nabulus and in the center towns of Ramallah and Al-Birah, as well as some incidents in the Hebron area—has been stirred into action. I believe, however, that we always come to those areas on time and manage to control events and supervise them to make sure they do not go beyond certain limits.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you mean that there is no room for this talk about a civil uprising in Judaea and Samaria?

[Mitzna'] Definitely not. I believe the majority of the population wishes to lead its life quietly. But the people are prevented from doing so by elements that incite them to go out in the streets and engage in clashes and friction with the security forces. Thus, ultimately, situations like those we have seen are created. Even in the Balatah refugee camps, which is one of the biggest camps in Judaea and Samaria, the majority of the population wants to live peacefully. Yet the inhabitants find themselves subjected to incessant threats day and night, by extremist elements within the camp. Many camp inhabitants, not just one person, have asked us to put an end to this phenomenon and help them lead a normal, quiet life.

[Ben-Menahem] Could you be a little bit more specific about outside incitement?

[Mitzna'] There is a lot of instigation both from within and from the outside. In the latter case, every opportunity to exploit incidents like those we have witnessed is taken to spread exaggerations and unfounded rumors. We have seen many rumors and a lot of stories that are simply not true spread around over the last few days.

[Ben-Menahem] Can you give us an example of such rumors?

[Mitzna'] It was reported, for example, that our forces broke into mosques during prayers. This is by no means correct: We do not enter mosques, nor did we do so in that specific case. There were allegations that we prevented the evacuation of casualties from the Balatah refugee camp. This, also, is untrue. I saw with my own eyes that ambulances and medical teams entered the camp on at least two occasions to take care of children whose mothers brought them in for routine checkups and to receive medication and the like. There were reports that we refused to permit blood donations in a hospital. This, again, is simply not true.

Many other rumors have been spread, but the truth is exactly the opposite. We report on events in the area exactly the way they are. We rush the casualties to local hospitals or, if they need better treatment, to Israeli hospitals, and we have been doing everything in our power to treat the casualties in those instances where there are casualties and, naturally, to ease their pain.

[Ben-Menahem] Finally, Gen Mitzna', what is your forecast for the next few days in Judaea and Samaria, and do you have any kind of message to the local population?

[Mitzna'] We are trying very hard, especially now that everyone is emotionally charged. I definitely do understand these feelings, certainly in view of the great number of casualties, and realize that regardless of whether or not the residents are aware of all the facts, they feel tense and under pressure. Therefore, one of our missions is to ease the pressure, relieve the tension, alleviate unnecessary clashes, and deploy only in those places where there really are order disruptions and incitement.

I hereby appeal to the local residents to heed the instructions of the security forces, to try to avoid friction, and to restore life to normalcy. We, for our part, will do the best we can to achieve this. In general, I would say that we remove the forces from those places that are quiet, and I can give quite a few examples of this. Wherever there are no problems and the inhabitants behave the way they should, we remove the Army forces.

This can be seen in many refugee camps, cities, or roads, where you will not be able to spot even a single soldier. This means that wherever the region is quiet and the population behaves properly, abstaining from clashes with the soldiers and from throwing stones on the roads, this population can neither see nor clash with soldiers. This, in fact, is our message: We have no intention of changing, nor have we changed, the orders regulating the opening of fire, and we are trying to fully observe regulations and avoid a situation in which we are forced to open fire. Naturally, we are trying to restore quiet and peace in the area.

Part of the responsibility for the fact that in the end our soldiers find themselves in the impossible situation of opening fire lies with the elements that incite the population to go out into the streets. They themselves hide even if that population does come out in the streets and is dragged to participate in demonstrations and violent

riots, finding shelter behind women, children, and old people. As a result, those who are hurt come from precisely that population: women, children, and old people. We will definitely pursue the firm policy in a bid to find the instigators and those who really make the people go out into the streets.

'Arafat Orders Disturbances in Territories

TA122032 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat sent personal instructions to his activists in the territories to increase demonstrations during the UN Security Council's debate on developments in the territories in order to capture headlines, a senior military source told our correspondent this evening.

Foreign Ministry on Message From Egypt

TA132047 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen, in Beilin's office on 13 December—videotaped in Hebrew, with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Beilin] I read the [Egyptian] message [to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres] and would not say it protested anything; rather, it expressed concern—which we all share. We would all like to see the disturbances in the territories end as soon as possible. Indeed, I hope that the fury will subside within the next few days, so that we can regard it as a passing episode.

[Kohen] What, in your opinion, are the political trends behind the escalation in the territories and the rioting we have witnessed over the last 2 weeks?

[Beilin] It is hard to tell. Countless reasons have been given as explanations for the events, and I cannot tell which is true: whether this is due to external incitement, whether the instigation comes from within, or whether this comes in reaction to some road accident that has been viewed as a political act rather than a natural occurrence. What is more important is that it stops because this phenomenon of polarization in the territories pushes the chances for reaching a settlement farther away.

Those who genuinely wish to make progress in the direction of peace, those who truly want to do something positive in the realm of peace should devote great efforts to put an end to this affair because polarization on one side will breed polarization on the other side, and those elements who do not wish to make concessions will make their adversaries react in kind and also refuse to give in. In the end we will find ourselves even more distanced from the peace process.

I would say the following: Without knowing precisely what caused the latest show of agitation in the territories, I nevertheless believe that those who stirred them up want to harm the peace process. If the inhabitants of the territories want to see the situation end, and I presume this holds true for the majority of the population, and want to see a peace process that would enable us to reach an understanding and a compromise between the two peoples, they should put an end to this instigation and to the rioting in the territories as soon as possible.

[Kohen] Does this have any implications for the absence of a political initiative in our region? Are the two connected?

[Beilin] The current events could have resulted from hostile propaganda or from a certain degree of frustration. But even if it exists—and it may affect many—this should not lead to such acts, which in the end yield the opposite results.

[Kohen] Sir, what is your assessment of the renewed rapprochement between Egypt and the PLO and how will it affect Israeli-Egyptian relations?

[Beilin] Israel's position on the matter is well known both to Egypt and to all the other countries in the world that have relations of whatever nature with the PLO. We see no justification for such relations and do not believe the PLO did anything to warrant any change in attitude toward it, either in Egypt or in other countries. To date, the PLO has not evinced the desire to make any substantial change in its policy, or even more importantly in its attitude toward terrorism. Still, we do not determine Egypt's policy, and just as we have had good relations with Egypt, we are highly interested in pursuing these good ties even now, when so many Arab countries have resumed their diplomatic relations with it. We would even look forward to a further improvement in these relations so as to strengthen the peace process.

[Kohen] Dr Beilin, the report the foreign minister received from U.S. envoy Richard Murphy in New York yesterday indicates that the Middle East issue was not raised at all during the summit meeting. Does this imply a deadlock in the political process?

[Beilin] It is true that according to Richard Murphy's report the issue was not raised by the leaders but was discussed by much lower working echelons, where nothing new was achieved. Besides, the discussion of the issue was not intensive or extended enough to yield any real results.

I do not think that what we should expect now must necessarily be a freeze in the political process. Similarly, I do not believe that such a freeze should be allowed, because we are on the verge of a certain process which, if stopped—whether due to elections in Israel or in the United States—could wreak serious damage upon the inhabitants of this entire region. I believe both Israel and

the Arab countries share an interest in wanting to prevent a freeze in this respect and in wanting to make sure that we can proceed with the process we have already launched to promote peace.

[Kohen] Is it true that the Soviets have already become more intransigent about the international conference and the issue of relations with Israel?

[Beilin] I can hardly say so that easily. Indeed, we have heard various interpretations of the matter, some things have been stated in the United Nations in a public address, other things have been said in private talks, and there are differences in nuances and in the tone among the various statements.

I believe that the honest answer to this question is that, unfortunately, we have not yet begun a sincere and open dialogue with the Soviet Union and are therefore prevented from knowing precisely where it stands on the issue. I believe that such a dialogue is a must, and I also think that the Soviets, for their part, also realize that in the absence of such a dialogue, it would be impossible to promote the process, and knows that it will not be able to dictate things to Israel or talk to it from the UN podium. Thus, what we really should have is an honest and sincere dialogue, which could be prolonged, so that we know exactly where the issue stands.

[Kohen] Could the summit have had any implication for the Middle East process?

[Beilin] Without a doubt. Although the Middle East did not feature as the central issue in the summit—actually it was not even a marginal issue—the very fact that the world map currently looks different, with a renewed detente between the Soviet Union and the United States on the one hand and with Europe showing itself more independent—perhaps involuntarily so, but still more independent than before—this new situation in the world creates different circumstances for the Middle East, too. I believe that in principle any rapprochement between the two superpowers works in favor of the peace process in our region, even if the connection between the two is merely indirect. After all, ultimately we are talking about the same process, and any process of rapprochement between the higher ups will also lead to rapprochement here.

[Kohen] Sir, let me ask you one final question: Have Israel and the EEC reached any agreement on marketing agricultural produce from Gaza to Europe?

[Beilin] This agreement is currently being worked on. The principle is that the farmers in the occupied territories will be allowed to establish direct ties with European consumers, through advertisements and marketing promotion campaigns, while the actual export from the territories to Europe will be done in agreement with and with Israel's consent.

UN Denies Troop Concentration in North

TA141225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] UN spokesman said today that the UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon have not noticed any concentration of Israeli troops along the northern border or in the security zone. The spokesman, Timur Goksel, added that no irregular activity was taking place in the area. Beirut radio stations had earlier reported that Israel was concentrating forces along the international border with Lebanon, in preparation for a retaliatory operation against the hang glider attack.

Lahd Meets Phalangist Leaders in Beirut

TA132104 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], visited Beirut about a week ago and met with several Christian leaders. This was reported by sources in the Lebanese capital. These Christian leaders included, among others, Samir Ja'ja', the commander of the Phalangist militia; the Maronite patriarch; and Dany Sha'mun. This is the first time since Lahd arrived in southern Lebanon that a visit to Beirut has been reported.

Navy Officer on Nature of Terrorist Attack

TA111627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Dec 87

[text] The commander of the Haifa naval base said it is possible that the terrorist speedboat which was sunk last night was enroute to carry out an attack on Israel. Nevertheless, he added, the possibilty should not be discounted that it tried to attack the hull of the Israeli Navy's Dabur class coastal patrol craft in order to sink it. The commander of the Haifa naval base made these remarks at a news conference.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the commander of the vessel, Ensign 'Eran, said the battle took place while the vessels were sailing the high waters and at a range of several hundred meters from each other. Ensign 'Amit Sela' was killed by the first volley.

Hizballah Responsible

TA122016 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The Israeli Navy is continuing its routine activity along the Lebanese coast. Our military correspondent reports that there is no intention of changing the scope and nature of the activity following last Thursday's incident in which an IDF officer was killed and a terrorist boat was destroyed. Hizballah was behind the attack. The organization has several dozen terrorists who are trained in naval warfare and are based in southern Lebanon. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports on Hizballah's naval activites:

Hizballah's naval arm was behind the attempted attack on Israeli naval vessels. It was not a suicide attack but most likely an attempt to fire at a naval vessel. The terrorist boat waited in ambush in an area used for fishing. When it was discovered with a searchlight, it fired an RPG, which killed Ensign Sela'.

It is known that Hizballah members have trained in Iran together with Iranian Navy personnel. They bought small, fast boats, such as the boats operating in the Persian Gulf. This is still not an attempt to attack inside Israel. At this stage Hizballah apparently intends to harm the ongoing activities of the Navy along the Lebanese coast.

It will be recalled that 2 months ago antiship mines were found close to Tyre. This is also an Iranian method, which was copied from the Persian Gulf. The area in which the incident occurred north of Tyre is used for fishing. The Israeli Navy forbids fishing up to Tyre, but it is permitted further north.

According to military sources, the situation has not changed even since the attack. Under the regulations, the Navy has to make sure that terrorists and not innocent fishermen are involved before opening fire. This was also the case on Thursday.

Neurology Specialist Denies Treating Khomeyni

TA141527 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Dec 87 pp A1, 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay and Arye Bender]

[Text] Five Israeli physicians recently went to all lengths to improve the health of Iran's leader Khomeyni who had been on the verge of death. At the end of the resuscitation treatment, however, the doctors told acquaintances that Khoemyni would not last long and that he should be expected to die at any moment. This is argued by the Zurich correspondent of the Kuwaiti daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in a report quoting Swiss and German physicians who also treated the Iranian ruler.

Earlier, there had been reports in the West that physicians from Switzerland and Germany had been urgently summoned to Tehran about 2 months ago to treat the dying Khomeyni. The Kuwaiti correspondent argues that when they found out that they could not give the 87-year-old ruler the required resuscitation treatment, these physcians recommended that experts be called from Israel.

Following this recommendation, Ahmad Khomeyni, the leader's son, called his contacts in Israel. These people obtained the government's authorization to send to Tehran the required medical team headed by Professor Feldman (this is how the name appears in the original report, without a first name). Khomeyni's son, who heads the moderate stream in Iran, has in the past year been touted in the Arab and international press as the man who serves as the direct liaison between Tehran and Jerusalem.

On the last day of their stay in Tehran and shortly before they took off for Zurich the Israeli physicians refused to accept a $50,000 check, arguing that they had come on a mission on behalf of the Israeli Government. According to the Kuwaiti newspaper, the Iranians became very angry and forced them to take the check, countering that they had never asked Israel for any gratis favors.

"I have never treated Khomeyni. I heard about the story in the Kuwaiti newspaper as early as a month ago. Journalists called me and I told them the story was totally unfounded. I have never been in Iran and I have not treated Khomeyni. This is a tall tale and a fabricated story," says Prof Sha'ul Feldman, director of the neurological department of the Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Pollard Discloses Soviet Penetration of Mossad

TA141635 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1555 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Soviet spies have penetrated into Mossad's top echelon, relaying information that has also damaged U.S. intelligence, sources in the U.S. Justice Department told UNITED PRESS. Ya'aqov Eylon, our correspondent in New York, is on the telephone to report on the main points of the story:

The Americans discovered the Soviet penetration of the Mossad after sensitive information relayed to Israel by Jonathan Pollard reached the Soviets. This information dealt with the development of U.S. weapons and with the strategic defense deployment of the United States in Turkey, Pakistan, and moderate Arab countries. U.S. intelligence sources and officials in the U.S. Justice Department have told this to UP. The UP report is being quoted in the media here this evening.

The penetration of Israeli intelligence affected not only Israel but also damaged the United States, the sources said. They went on to add that a feverish investigation is under way in Israel to locate the leak and that morale in the Mossad is consequently very low.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, told UP he knows nothing about the story, while the U.S. State Department spokesman refused to comment. Nevertheless, an administration official confirmed that the Soviet penetration of the Mossad had been discussed in meetings between the CIA, the FBI, and other branches of U.S. intelligence. Quoting a U.S. intelligence expert, UP offers the ironic explanation that the Soviets are using Israelis of extremist right-wing inclinations who are prepared to pass them secret information about the United States if more Jews are allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

King Husayn Returns to Amman After Tour

JN141551 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn returned home this afternoon after a tour during which he visited the Arab Gulf countries and held talks with their leaders. These talks covered the fateful issues in the region in light of current regional and international developments.

The talks also included a follow up of the implementation of the positive results of the historic Amman summit resolutions to reinforce joint Arab action and Arab solidarity and to preserve pan-Arab security and order. The talks also focused on fraternal relations between Jordan and the Arab Gulf countries.

His majesty was received by His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative; His Highness Prince Hasan, the crown prince; and a number of members of the Hashemite family. He was also received by the prime minister, the Senate president, the first deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, the commander in chief of Jordanian Armed Forces, the ministers, the chief of the Royal Household, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, the public security director, and a number of senior civilian and military officials, in addition to the ambassadors of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and the Sultanate of Oman accredited in Amman.

His majesty was accompanied by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; and the chief of staff.

Proposal for Summit With Israel Rejected

NC130734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has revealed that a proposal was made to him to hold a Jordanian-Israeli summit meeting on the sidelines of the Washington summit. However, he said, he rejected the proposal because such a meeting could not be a substitute for the international conference which Jordan is seeking to convene. He said that interim arrangements, rather than a just and peaceful solution, would have been discussed at this meeting.

In an interview with the AL-SAFIR newspaper, King Husayn said that the doors of Damascus have opened to Baghdad and the doors of Baghdad have opened to Damascus. The restoration of Syrian-Egyptian relations, he asserted, is not unlikely.

With regard to the Lebanese issue, the Jordanian monarch said: We will continue our efforts through ongoing consultations. Syria is in a position to play a major role in the mediation process and to narrow the differences of views. It has a direct interest in the Lebanese situation and is not a party to the conflict. It can play a role which we cannot play.

On economic aid to Lebanon, he stated: It became clear at the Arab summit that the assets backing the Lebanese pound are sufficient. The Arab states will help through their membership in the IMF. The issue is not that of the pound. Efforts should be made to deal with the political situation; it is this that has led to the deterioration in the value of the Lebanese pound. He affirmed: We will do the impossible to restore Lebanon's unity, strength, and ability to stand on its own feet.

Al-Masri Holds Talks With ICO's Pirzada

JN121953 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri held extensive talks today with ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada on the preparations and arrangements related to the convening of the 17th conference of ICO states foreign ministers, scheduled to be held in Amman in March. A number of senior Foreign Ministry officials participated in the talks. Pirzada arrived in Amman this morning.

Received by Prince Hasan

JN131531 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning.

During the meeting they discussed the most important issues in the Arab and Islamic arenas, particularly the Gulf war. His highness the regent stressed the need to unify Islamic action, particularly within the framework of the Islamic foreign ministers conference which will be held in Amman in March, to stop this bloody war. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and a number of Pirzada's aides attended the meeting.

AL-SHIRA' Cited on Release of U.S. Hostage

NC121258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The weekly AL-SHIRA' reports today that a U.S. hostage held in Lebanon will be released shortly. It says the U.S. hostage, whose health has deteriorated to a dangerous extent, will be released, that negotiations on this issue have reached an advanced stage, and that the kidnappers' demands have been met.

Iranian Emissary Arrives To Mediate on Hostages

NC131238 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1225 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Voice of Lebanon has learned that an Iranian emissary representing Ayatollah Tabataba'i arrived in Beirut on Friday [11 December]. The emissary held meetings with Hizballah leaders on the matter of the foreign hostages. It should be recalled that representatives of Tabataba'i opened offices in Geneva to follow up on the hostage issue. According to sources close to the Iranian emissary, a number of hostages have been transferred to Iran. However, Iranian Embassy sources in West Beirut have remained silent on the reports issued by the Iranian emissary.

Iranian Seeks To Mediate for Waite Release

JN140806 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Ahmad Baqer, an Iranian businessman living in London, has proposed to British officials the arrangement of a deal with Tehran to release Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and British journalist John McCarthy who have been held in Beirut for a year.

Official British sources have stated to AL-ITTIHAD that Baqer asked the British officials with whom he met to arrange meetings between him and Geoffrey Howe, foreign and commonwealth secretary, or David Mellor, minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to discuss the possibility of asking Baqer to complete the deal. However, his request was rejected.

The sources said British officials told Baqer they reject his offer and affirmed to him that the British Government adheres to its stand of not negotiating on hostages. The sources reported that Baqer had played a role in the Iranian-French deal, which resulted in the release of two French hostages, and that he had made shuttle trips between Paris and Tehran for that purpose.

Islamic Leader Praises Release of POW's

LD111809 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 11, IRNA—Head of Islamic Towhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban back home from Tehran praised release of eight repentant Lebanese POW's by the Islamic Republic of Iran saying that it indicates the Islamic feeling of the Islamic revolution.

Shaykh Sha'ban told reporters here that the released Lebanese are determined to fight blasphemy and world arrogance along with the Islamic Republic or Iran.

On the status of Iraqi-imposed war prisoners who are kept in Iran, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran calls all prisoners whether they are Iraqis, Sudanese, Lebanese or Jordanians as "guests" and that this is a typical distinction between Islam and dominant systems.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said that Iran intends to set free some of the POW's and Muslim ulema can travel to Iran to talk with Iranian officials on the release of the POW's.

Shaykh Sha'ban addressed a group of people from Tripoli and briefed them on the outcome of international congress on sanctity and security of Haramain (holy shrines in Mecca and Medina) recently held in Tehran and said that contrary to Amman and Jeddah conferences, Tehran congress was held to safeguard right of world Muslims.

POW's Detained in Syria

NC121324 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Informed sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that Syrian security authorities have detained eight Lebanese who were released by Iran on 7 December. They had been taken prisoner while fighting with the Iraqi Army on the Iran-Iraq front. These sources say that despite the agreement between the Iranians and Shaykh Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement] that they should be taken to Beirut Airport, the Iranian authorities sent them to Damascus, where they have been detained.

Hizballah Obtains Stinger Missiles From Iran

NC141238 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Sources close to a former Amal security official in West Beirut have said that Hizballah recently obtained Stinger missiles from Tehran. According to these same sources, the missiles are now being kept in Beirut's southern suburb.

Israeli Military Movement in South Continues

Navy Massing Off Coast

NC111817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] According to arrivals from the south, the Israeli enemy has concentrated dozens of naval units off the coast extending from Jisr al-Awwali, north of Sidon, to Ra's al-Naqurah, south of Tyre. Some Israeli boats carrying out patrol duties are being observed approaching the southern coast now and then.

Helicopter Reconnaisance

NC120908 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] A state of expectation and alert prevails in the areas of southern Lebanon, western Al-Biqa', and Hasbayya for fear of an Israeli operation. The state of alert is being maintained in view of intensive preparations and movements by the occupation forces in the occupied border areas. Security sources have reported that the occupation forces have brought more than 6,000 soldiers, equipped with about 325 vehicles, into southern Lebanon since the Qiryat Shemona operation.

The occupation forces yesterday increased their military concentrations in the southern areas. Our correspondent has reported that the occupation forces' activities continued throughout the night. Enemy helicopters carried out wide-scale reconnaissance flights.

Gunboats Cruise Coast

NC121733 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] A state of alert continued around Sidon and in the camps, as well as along the Al-Zahrani-'Adlun coast, today as a precaution against any contingency in light of the successful sea operation in which an Israeli naval officer was killed 2 days ago.

Israeli gunboats cruised the southern coast last night until dawn today. They were accompanied by helicopters, which flew over the southern coastal areas of Al-Zahrani and 'Adlun as far as Sayniq.

Jazzin, Metulla Reinforcements

NC140749 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut and its southern suburb are reported to be completely calm. However, tension is said to reign over southwestern Al-Biqa', as Israel continues to reinforce its positions on the hills overlooking western Al-Biqa' and the central sector down to Jazzin. Certain reports say that Israel is massing a large armored force near Metulla.

Warplanes Fly Over Sidon

NC141059 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes are flying in the south, particularly over Sidon and the camps.

Israeli Officers Meet 'Agents' in Marj 'Uyun

NC122017 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports received from the south, Israeli military vehicles carrying a number of high-ranking Zionist officers entered the Al-Mtullah gate today and proceeded to the agents' barracks in Marj 'Uyun. The officers met with senior agents to coordinate with them the recent Israeli concentrations in the south.

Lahd Visits East Beirut, Meets With Sfayr

NC130752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] A source in East Beirut has disclosed that agent Antoine Lahd, the commander of the so-called South Lebanese Army, last week visited East Beirut and spent about 72 hours there. He went to Bkirki last Saturday and met with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr. The source described the atmosphere of the meeting as positive, pointing out that discussions dealt with the situation of the Christians in the occupied border strip area.

Birri Comments on Meeting

NC141526 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Minister Nabih Biri has been contacted by acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and 'Umar Karami. In turn he has telephoned Finance Minister Joseph al-Hashim.

He then made the following statement: Certain news agencies have reported that Antoine Lahd visited the Maronite Patriarchate and met with His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr. This news report has personally shocked me. It has shocked every true Lebanese person and all of southern Lebanon, its Christians before its Muslims, particularly at a time when 'Alma al-Sha'b, Rumaysh, 'Ayn Ibil, and other villages in the south suffer from outrageous maltreatment and expropriation of Christian land.

Birri added: I have tried to contact Patriarch Sfayr to inquire about the truth of this visit, which I personally doubt has taken place. However, because of telephone line problems, I have not yet succeeded in getting through to him. I hope that the patriarchate will clarify this issue. It serves Lebanon, not those who commit aggression against Lebanon's land, dignity, and people.

Talas on Syria's Role in Qiryat Shemona Event

NC130838 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas has revealed that Syria helped the Palestinians to carry out the operation against the Gebor camp in Qiryat Shemona. At a graduation ceremony for new Syrian officers, Talas affirmed that his country is giving every assistance to the Palestinian organizations to carry out operations against Israel.

Syrians Arrest 100 in Qada' al-Kurah Area

NC121046 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The Syrians made sweeping arrests, involving about 100 people, in the town of (Al-Tarram) in the Qada' al-Kurah area [in north Lebanon] this morning, preventing residents from leaving or entering the town. This follows the killing of a Syrian soldier in the Syrian occupation center in (Al-¯arram).

More Searches, Arrests

NC141026 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Reports received by our radio from the north indicate that the Syrian occupation forces are searching houses and arresting people in most of the villages and towns of Al-Kurah, particularly Bturram, (Ird 'Abrin), Kafr Hata, and Shakka.

According to these reports, the Syrians have blown up houses in Bturram and Shakka. Some 300 people have been arrested by the Syrians. [passage omitted]

Syrian Forces Withdraw From Al-Awwali Area

NC130615 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] The AL-NAHAR newspaper has reported that the Syrian forces withdrew from the Al-Awwali area and took up positions in Al-Damur 2 days ago. The paper described this step as being connected with expected developments in the south.

Forces Deny Withdrawal

NC131016 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Sources from the Internal Security Forces in Sidon have denied reports that the Syrian forces have withdrawn from the Al-Awwali area to Al-Damur. The sources affirmed that the Syrian forces are still in their positions.

Syrian Plan for West Beirut, Southern Suburb

NC131014 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] AFP has reported that the Syrian forces command in West Beirut is currently endeavoring to draw up a broad security plan involving West Beirut and the southern suburb and reaching as far as Sidon. The agency added that Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an visited West Beirut last week. They made a close inspection of the security situation there and investigated the repeated operations against the Syrian forces.

The agency went on to say that a Syrian soldier was killed in West Beirut last week, and that the Liberation Battalion had claimed responsibility for the incident. AFP further noted that a Syrian position came under gunfire recently, leaving a number of Syrian troops either killed or wounded.

Liberation Battalion Claims Attack on Syrians

NC120912 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The Liberation Battalion has announced that it carried out a rocket attack on a Syrian checkpoint at the Al-Mawlawi circle in the Abu Samra area of Tripoli last night. The Syrians returned fire and mounted a campaign of search and raids.

Increased Syrian Aerial Activity Over Al-Biqa'

NC131244 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] According to information received from western Al-Biqa', the Palestinian, Syrian, and Iranian training centers in Yanta in western Al-Biqa' have adopted stringent security measures. Furthermore, the commands of Hizballah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Yanta have cancelled a military training course, scheduled to be held yesterday and today, as a precaution against any Israeli surprise attack in light of reports of an Israeli build-up in the southern border area. Meanwhile, the PFLP-GC under Ahmad Jibril has also cancelled training courses in the same area.

We have also been informed that Syrian warplanes have intensified their flights in Syrian and Lebanese skies, particularly over Al-Masna' and western Al-Biqa'.

Syrian Military Command Urges Caution in North

NC141254 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] The Syrian military command in the northern region has instructed all of its positions in the region to exercise caution, particularly during the night, as a safeguard against any Israeli raids.

Khaddam, Al-Shar' Receive Marrack Goulding
JN141339 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, and the delegation accompanying him at 1230 today. Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah attended the meeting. Talks during the meeting dealt with the current situation in the region and the UN mission there.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Marrack Goulding and his accompanying delegation this morning. Dia'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister, attended the meeting. Talks dealt with UNIFIL's role in Lebanon and the need for Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. The two sides also discussed the developments pertaining to the international Middle East peace conference and the Israeli and U.S. stands, which are an obstacle to the convocation of this conference.

Al-Shar' Receives PNC Speaker Al-Fahum 13 Dec
JN131243 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum this morning. Their talks dealt with the current situation in the Palestinian arena.

Austrian Defense Minister Arrives in Damascus
JN132146 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—Austrian National Defense Minister Robert Lichal and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus today on an official visit to Syria that is scheduled to last for several days.

The minister and his delegation were received at Damascus International Airport by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; General 'Ali Aslan and Major General Hasan Turkumani, deputy chiefs of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces; and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus.

U.S. 'Obstinately' Opposing Moves for Peace
JN111430 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a time when the signs of international detente are beginning to reflect on relations among states and nations now that the two superpowers have signed an agreement in Washington during the Gorbachev-Reagan summit on the elimination of part of the weapons of death and destruction, the lobbies and halls of the United Nations are the scene of a U.S.-Israeli stand that is both old and new. Such a stand conflicts with the principles and ideas upon which mankind bases its hopes and dreams of a world free from the threats of war and aggression where there are no propensities toward militarization or domination, a world where security and peace prevail, a world in which there is cooperation and friendship among peoples on an equal footing in a climate of mutual confidence and respect based on justice.

International detente cannot be a mere official document temporarily filed in the archives of states but lacking practical applications on the political, economic, and social levels in various parts of the world during our time. International detente is ultimately a policy for dealing with various powers in the world, rather than a written agreement tickling the dreams of peoples in one place and taking away their aspirations and dreams of security and peace in another.

Prior to and after the Washington agreement, the United States, together with Israel, continues to view the Middle East from the same angle and approaches the Middle East problem with the same wornout methods that demonstrate its full bias toward the Zionist policy based on war and aggression. This is true with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict on both the regional level and on the international political level where serious ideas have appeared recently to search for reasonable solutions to all aspects of the Middle East problem. To this day the United States obstinately opposes every idea leading to the convening of an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices.

The United States continues to be committed to everything that is likely to strengthen the Israeli stand, which calls for direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel that will lead to separate and feeble agreements facilitating the success of Israel's Zionist plan for occupation, domination, and control of the region's resources. The United States persists to this day in obstinately opposing every idea that distinguishes between the terrorism practiced against peoples and the resistance carried out by the liberation movements of the world to implement their just liberation program that represents their independent will for independence, sovereignty, and self-determination.

At the United Nations, Washington, together with Israel, has recently opposed once again world unanimity on convening an international Middle East peace conference. The overwhelming majority of UN member states voted for such a conference. Washington also opposed the historic initiative made by leader Al-Asad some time ago for an international conference to define terrorism and to distinguish between terrorism and national resistance to safeguard peoples' right to self-determination.

In both stands Washington has proven that although it has agreed to eliminate part of its arms arsenal in accordance with the agreement it signed with Moscow, it cannot agree to relinquish the policy of aggression unless it is compelled to do so. In our times the peoples of the world are capable of determining their destiny.

Paper Warns of U.S.-Israeli Alliance Pact

JN121507 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Hostile Step," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The United States and Israel will give a new push to their existing hostile strategic alliance through a 10-year agreement which the two sides will sign on Monday. The danger of this agreement, which puts cooperation between the United States and Israel on the same level as cooperation between Washington and the NATO countries, lies in the fact that it will consecrate the hostile imperialist-Zionist line against the Arab nation and open the U.S. arsenal of sophisticated weapons to Israel so that it can continue its policy of aggression and expansion against the Arab nation for the next 10 years.

The strategic alliance agreement, which was signed by Washington and Tel Aviv, has turned the U.S. role in the region from one of backing Israel with funds and weapons to that of direct U.S. participation in the aggression. This was manifested in the U.S. aggression against Libya and in the U.S. military intervention in support of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It was also manifested in the allocation of billions of dollars in aid and grants to Israel to enable it to finance the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the entrenchment of occupation, and the carrying out of new expansionist steps as is happening in southern Lebanon.

The United States is pursuing an Israeli policy toward the region, adopting Israel's aggressive and expansionist plans, and supporting the establishment of Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. The United States has given ample proof of its adherence to a hostile line against the Arab nation and its just causes. The United States has tried and is trying through the aggressive base represented by Israel and also through the Camp David accords to force Arabs to surrender and to dominate the region and its resources. The renewal and development of the strategic alliance through the new agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv will only be a further hostile step whose aim is to turn the hostile U.S. role into one of more direct, boorish interference in the region.

The United States has already given the strategic alliance with Tel Aviv some of its features even before signing the new agreement. It has achieved this through the U.S. naval buildup in the region which has been alerted and prepared for military intervention and for dominating the region and its resources.

The Arab nation is called upon to remain aware of the dangers of the hostile U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance and to fortify Arab existence against the impending danger, especially since the U.S. role has been turned from that of backing aggression to that of direct participation and the conclusion of the necessary agreements to develop its plans and methods.

AL-BA'TH Cited on Rabin Visit to Washington

JN111612 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Dec 87

[From the press review]

[Text] On the Israeli-U.S. aggressive alliance, AL-BA'TH says in an editorial today: The visit by the Zionist war minister to Washington comes to complete military talks between Israel and the NATO countries. This also confirms the profound strategic relationship between the United States and Israel. While the world sees signs of a change or some intentions to move toward peace and international security, the Zionist general leveled threats at Syria. He forgot the world no longer tolerates risks.

If the statements by the Israeli Army generals coincide with the consolidation of the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, we do not think Rabin's visit to Washington is far from the joint planning and coordination between the two allies to reshuffle international cards and justify U.S. retraction of what its President has signed. Rabin will not be a peace messenger in Washington. Moreover, Washington—which still impedes international will in the Middle East—will only discuss with Rabin whatever concerns his job as a general in a racist aggressive entity and whatever serves the aggressive strategy of the two parties to the strategic alliance, the United States and Israel.

Papers Praise UN Resolutions on Middle East

JN130937 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Dec 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Victory for the Just Arab Cause," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The series of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly yesterday confirms that the issue of the Arab-Zionist conflict occupies a prominent position in the international community's concerns. It also affirms that this conflict is the core of the current problem in the region, which can only be solved by Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, the return of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, and considering the Israeli annexation of the Golan and Jerusalem null and void.

The fact that these resolutions follow and are in line with recent Arab summit resolutions confirms the soundness and credibility of the Syrian Arab stand which is a response to supreme pan-Arab interests, as Syria affirmed that the priority is the Arab-Zionist conflict. On

the same level, through its successful political move in the international arena, as well as its distinguished and effective role in the UN General Assembly, Syria managed to rally the widest world support for Arab rights, the priority of the Middle East issue, and the need to achieve a just peace through an international conference to be supervised by the United Nations and attended by the five permanent UN Security Council members.

The new General Assembly resolutions acquire extreme importance as they come less than 1 week after the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Syrian initiative calling for an international conference to define the meaning of terrorism and distinguish between terrorism and peoples' liberation struggles and national liberation movements. If the UN General Assembly resolutions consititute a basic and important support for the just Arab cause, as well as a procedure by the international community placing the Middle East issue in its framework of priorities, then they confirm the soundness of Syria's stand on the Arab-Zionist conflict. This provides tangible evidence that Syria's approach to the conflict with the Zionist enemy is correct, safeguarding the pan-Arab cause, providing international support, and increasing the isolation of the Zionist entity. This isolation has been expressed by the new resolutions stating that Israel is not a peace-loving UN member, that all forms of cooperation with it should be halted, and that it should be isolated in all fields.

This fact should be an incentive for the Arab nation to intensify efforts and unify resources around the basic pillars of Arab struggle, which Syria has adopted and to which it is committed. The peak of these pillars is to give priority to the Arab-Zionist conflict and to rally the Arab nation's resources in the basic confrontation against the Zionist enemy in a manner guaranteeing that the conflict will be decided in favor of the Arab nation and its just central cause.

Under the headline "The Palestine Question Is the Core of the Arab-Zionist Conflict," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The UN General Assembly resolutions on the Middle East means, among other things, the international isolation of United States and Israel. They confirm that the peoples' determination to have a free and honorable life cannot be defeated regardless of terrorism and pressure. This is what Al-Asad's Syria has frequently announced and worked on; it is still working with absolute confidence that victory belongs to the struggling peoples. This was also confirmed by the extraordinary Amman summit resolutions as a result of leader Al-Asad's role. What is required now is an international move to achieve what the world has unanimously agreed on through the United Nations.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Praises U.S.-USSR Summit Outcome

LD112248 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Speech by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots: I consider it appropriate to join the worldwide waves of popular acclaim on a great and historic event—the signing of the treaty on eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles—and to say a few words on behalf of the people of the Republic of Afghanistan in thus regard.

The signing of this treaty was the climax of events related to the important visit of M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary, to the United States. It took place on 8 December and will be counted as the beginning of a new history in the collective lengthy efforts by mankind to have a safe and secure place in which to live. This is the first major treaty in the history of disarmament negotiations—which have had their ups and downs—in which the two great nuclear powers will actually eliminate a part of their reserves.

This important treaty covers all nuclear missiles with a launching range between 500 to 5,500 km. Some 2,800 transport vehicles and more than 3,000 nuclear warheads will be destroyed. Each one of them is capable of transforming a big and beautiful city into a Hiroshima—which happened a few years ago—and transforming each house into an inferno. There is no shield of defense or shelter against these machines of death, which strike suddenly.

From the strategic standpoint, the importance of eliminating these medium- and short-range missiles is that they reduce the danger of a nuclear conflict for mankind. The greatest value in this treaty for the people of the world, including the people of Afghanistan, is its long-lasting political and psychological effects. The INF Treaty is not only valuable in its own right; it also opens a path toward the future.

This, the most basic first step, will play a great role in reviving a climate of mutual trust, eliminating current tensions which cause anxiety in relations between countries, and achieving further agreement on disarmament. It will draw us closer to the goal of having a world free from the fearful shadow of a nuclear war.

We, the people of Afghanistan, consider this valuable gain to be the direct result of vigorous and continuous efforts to achieve peace and a spirit of mutual trust between the Soviet Union and the United States. If you can picture for a minute a nuclear war and the consequent tragic events, then you will understand the meaning of the policy of peace, the valuable end result of which is the successful signing of this treaty. You will also understand why the powers of peace and progress since the beginning of the nuclear age have put 176 proposals on the table of disarmament negotiations and prepared the ground for such a treaty with initiatives and continuous concessions, even at a time when the general situation in the world still remains distorted.

The signing of this treaty proved that even with tense conditions at the international and regional levels, you can take steps—not in the framework of expressing wishes but in practical terms—toward resolving important and urgent issues related to the life and death of the family of man.

I mention with praise the consistency, patience, and warm interest by the CPSU and Soviet Government leaders, particularly M.S. Gorabchev himself, in their efforts to achieve the goal of a safe planet earth where life can continue. I must also mention the wise and realistic approach of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, I congratulate him on this occasion.

Afghanistan, as a peace-loving country and one enjoying free judgment in international matters, believes that the tendency to untie the knots and remove the mistrust in resolving mankind's difficulties through talks and understanding will be transformed gradually into a part of international life.

The signing of the treaty on 8 December showed that you can rein in the [word indistinct] arms race and instead of spending enormous sums on pulling out the roots of mankind and earth, the roots of their existence and prosperity can be watered and made powerful by releasing financial resources.

It is good that the peace policy is opening a path, despite numerous accumulated difficulties and obstacles, toward ensuring the long-lasting interests of a united family of man.

The victory of the new political thinking, as Gorbachev stated in his conversation with representatives of ordinary Americans, is not only reflected in Soviet society and Soviet-U.S. relations. We believe the signing of the INF treaty is a section of the international [word indistinct] of this new way of political thinking in this century. An agreement on such an important issue, which was the focus of the world's attention, showed that leaders of the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, despite having deep differences in ideology, political philosphy, economics, and social systems, and despite a collision of policies and methods of approach on international issues, were able to build a bridge over a broad valley of disagreement and, as a result of a face-to-face meeting with each other, sign this treaty.

The signing of this treaty is an educational experience which opens the eyes of mankind to a new fact of today's life. There is a saying that if wisdom can overcome, then one can reach an agreement even at the peak of disagreements.

The signing of this treaty is of special importance for the Afghan people. It is also a learning experience for Afghans. Two sides, with such profound differences, (?can) approach each other with regard to a series of fundamental issues. So why can we Afghans, who share a common heritage and a united homeland, not agree with each other?

In the historic Grand Assembly and in our documents and speeches, it has been announced many times that our country is an Islamic country, where the principles and tenets of the sacred religion of Islam have been followed and osberved and enjoy the government's support. Our goal is to implement democracy and observe the rights and privileges of each Afghan within the framework of the law. Our country, which has put behind itself the long days and nights of the difficult period of bloodshed and fratricide, and during the past 9 years has tasted the lethal and torturing poison of war, better perceives the valuable importance of peace. In the light of peace and compromise, it sees more clearly the new opening chapter in life.

In the world around Afghanistan, too, the reconciliation policy is an opening road [words indistinct] for ending regional hostilities and overcoming controversies and differences which pit peoples against each other under various political titles.

With such foresight and knowledge we welcome the Gorbachev-Reagan talks about regional tensions, which had an appropriate place on the official agenda. In this part of the talks the attention of the United States was drawn to this fact: Although the causes for the creation of regional tensions and the current fratricidal wars in various corners of the world are different from each other, the possibilities for their solution share a common denominator and this is the path of reconciliation and a reduction of tension in the international atmosphere.

The people of the country warmly welcome every step that is being taken to create a suitable international atmosphere to help settle issues around Afghanistan. With increasing interest they will move ahead in implementing the national reconciliation policy, which today is not only a national fact but has also been turned into an international fact.

Let this formidable historic event be the starting point for a new era in international relations and let it be a perception of who is behind the warmongers.

Recent Government-Mujahidin Clashes Reported

Soviet Helicopter Downed

BK111536 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin shot down a Soviet helicopter that was bombing the rural areas of Takhar Province. Several Afghans were reported injured and 10 houses destroyed due to the bombing. According to another report, the mujahidin attacked a military transport workshop in Jalalabad. Twenty trucks and vehicles were destroyed, and the workshop building was heavily damaged. Twelve Soviet-Kabul soldiers were either killed or wounded in an attack on a security post near Sar Darreh town east of Kabul.

Missiles Fired at Meymaneh

LD121621 Kabul Domestic Servie in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] While our peace-loving compatriots are (?working) for the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the historic Grand Assembly to end the war and fratricide, the extremists have committed another barbarous crime, showing their hostility toward the peace-loving people of our country. They have embarked on another unforgivable crime.

According to the BAKHTAR military correspondent, these criminals fired surface-to-surface missiles and mortar shells at the houses of inhabitants of Meymaneh city in Faryab Province and martyred 10 of our compatriots, including women, children, and the elderly. Another 34 people were injured. The wounded persons were immediately taken to the hospital and are now receiving treatment.

The report adds that the national reconciliation commission of Meymaneh city and all peace-loving people strongly denounced this criminal action at a recent meeting and have cursed the perpetrators of this action. They asked the Armed Forces to punish the perpetrators of this unforgivable crime.

Konduz, Faryab Fighting

LD122128 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Two extremist groups, which by their subversive and terrorist actions had been disrupting the peaceful lives of the people of (Peshasitan) in Konduz Province and in the Sar Band region of Faryab Province, have recently been crushed by the country's Armed Forces. This was demanded by the national reconciliation commissions and the people of these two provinces.

According to BIA military correspondents, the Armed Forces, based on the repeated demands by the inhabitants, entered these regions. In consideration of the cease-fire terms, they asked the extremists to hand their

weapons over to security forces. However, they replied negatively and opened fire. To prevent these extremist groups from committing a crime, the security forces took action. As a result, a number of these criminals were crushed. Twenty-four of them were captured, along with a Stinger surface-to-air missile launcher, a recoilless gun, 2 mortars, 1 ZK-1, 11 DShKs, 21 heavy machineguns, 305 surface-to-surface missiles, 61 light weapons with thousands of rounds of ammunition, and four communications sets. Three enemy weapons and ammunition dumps were destroyed.

According to another report, a group of extremists, who had intended to commit a crime in the vicinity of Shindand District and to create an atmosphere of fear and terror after crossing the border, were crushed by the courageous border forces.

As a result of this combat operation, which took place to prevent the penetration by terrorists and the transfer of weapons and ammunition to the Republic of Afghanistan, 11 of these terrorists were seized along with 1 mortar, 1 rocket-launcher, 8 other weapons, hand grenades, and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Khowst Battle Continues

BK121330 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 12 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin are repelling Soviet-backed Afghan troops attempting to break the rebels' siege of the town of Khowst, the head of a French humanitarian group said here Saturday. "I saw columns (of mujahidin) moving on Khowst (and) preventing 10,000 to 20,000 Soviet and Afghan troops from getting through," Dr. Bernard Kouchner of Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World), who spent three weeks in Afghanistan, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Khowst is in Paktia Province, 120 kilometres (75 miles) south of Kabul.

"It is no longer a guerrilla war," said Dr. Kouchner.

Battles have been raging between the rebels and the Soviet-backed Afghan troops for the past three weeks.

"I was under the (massive aerial) bombardment," said Dr. Kouchner, adding it was carried out "day and night with the use of flares". He said government helicopters were rarely seen.

Dr. Kouchner denounced radical resistance movements, such as the Muslim fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami which has held Frenchmen in Afghanistan.

He also criticised the "humanitarian circus of Peshawar", the Pakistani frontier town where most of the humanitarian organisations are grouped, for "creating a humanitarian bureaucracy".

Dr. Kouchner said humanitarian work had become more difficult than in the first years of the war, mainly because of the "hunt for foreigners" by the Kabul regime and difficulties with anti-Western mujahidin groups.

Many mujahidin commanders belonging to Muslim extremist groups have in the past year blocked or attacked and pillaged humanitarian convoys in Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Success in Khowst

LD130914 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 13, IRNA—The Afghan mujahidin smashed a massive attack of the government and Soviet forces to break the three-month old siege of a Khowst governate military garrison in Pakhtia Province last Monday.

In their counterattack, the mujahidin killed or wounded more than 300 of the Afghan Government forces.

The joint Afghan and Soviet forces in retaliation landed some 500 parachuters in (Shanak) which operations met with resistance of the mujahidin with government troops being forced to retreat after sustaining heavy casualties.

Since Nov. 28, when the joint forces attempted to break the siege of the garrison, the mujahidin have shot down three planes killing their pilots. The mujahidin have also destroyed 5 tanks, and several armored vehicles of the joint forces, capturing some 80 of them.

Meanwhile, 150 Muslim officers of the Afghan Government Army and a colonel have surrendered to the mujahidin.

At the supreme National Assembly of Afghanistan, head of the Afghan Government, Najibullah, recently admitted that the mujahidin had laid siege on the garrison, but warned them that in the event they should not end their siege they would meet military action. So far, however, all such warnings have proved futile.

A source close to mujahidin told IRNA that they have killed, wounded or taken captive some 800 communist forces since the start of government attacks to break the siege of the garrison.

Battles reportedly continue between the mujahidin and government forces.

10 Missiles Seized in Kabul

LD131955 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] The security forces prevented a criminal act on the part of extremists in a timely operation in Kabul Province. According to a report by a BIA military correspondent, 10 surface-to-surface missiles and other

arms, which were stationed in the Arghandeh-ye Bala area of Paghman District and were planned to be fired on residential areas, were captured yesterday with the help of the local people.

Clash in Qandahar; MIG Downed

BK140240 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say there has been fierce fighting between Soviet-Kabul forces and mujahidin in Qandahar and its surrounding areas. According to these reports, mujahidin attacked a military center in Dand and caused extensive damage to the installation while killing or wounding more than 50 Soviet-Kabul forces. A MIG fighter was shot down near Qandahar.

Mujahidin have also claimed that they attacked a tank on patrol and killed eight soldiers of the Kabul administration in Nangarhar Province.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Gaza

LD140923 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 13, BAKHTAR—The latest events in the West Bank of Jordan River and Gaza Strip shows that the Zionists have opened fire against the peaceful demonstration of Palestinian inhabitants which resulted in the killing of a large number of women, children, and other innocent persons, says a statement released here today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

These actions, the statement stressed, are part and parcel of the attempts made by Israeli Zionist Government in order to eliminate or expel systematically the Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories. These desperate efforts take place with the political, military, economic and financial support of the United States and other imperialist forces to usurp permanently the lands of the people of Palestine. Relying on the support of the imperialist circles, the Zionists are impudently declining to accept the resolutions of Security Council and General Assembly of the UN.

They are also continuing their illegal and brutal actions without paying heed to the just call of the peaceful people of the world in gross violation of the accepted international norms particularly those of Geneva conventions.

The Republic of Afghanistan severely denounces the inhuman actions of Zionists in the occupied Palestinian lands and once again declares that stable peace can only be secured in the Middle East with the withdrawal of Israeli occupationist forces from the occupied Arab lands, the restoration of the legitimate rights of Palestinians, including the creation of an independent state of Palestinians, says the statement.

The holding of an international conference of peace on the Middle East, the statement indicates, with the participation of Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine can open the (?path) for a just and stable political solution in this war-stricken region of the world.

The Republic of Afghanistan once again expresses its decisive solidarity with the just cause of Palestinians and calls upon all peaceful mankind not to let the Zionists to perpetrate such crimes against the people of Afghanistan.

114 Amnestied by Presidential Decree 13 Dec

LD140933 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] By presidential decree, 114 prisoners were released today in honor of the Grand Assembly and in order to increase the role of the people in the national reconciliation process.

According to a BAKHTAR military reporter, these prisoners, who were held on the verdicts of the courts, were released today during meetings held for the purpose in Ghazni, Faryab, and Helmand. The reporter adds that on behalf of the others, three released people—(Aktar Muhammad), (Nassib), and (Muhammad Hassib)—said that they compared the acts of the popular state with the acts of those who had deceived them. They clearly declared that the only way to end the bloodshed in our fatherland is to implement the national reconciliation policy, and that they would exert all their energy for this purpose. They said: Peace is successful. The path of peace is the path of righteousness.

Bangladesh

Ershad Announces Elections, Criticizes BBC

BK111600 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said there is no alternative to election for achieving peace and discipline in the society and hoped that everybody would come forward to solve the problem through election. He was addressing public meetings at Panch Bibi and Chak Barkat in Joypurhat today. The president said he had dissolved the Parliament to clear the way for holding fresh elections to get electoral mandate on various national issues. He said elections will be held within 90 days of the dissolution of Parliament and the responsibility of running the country will be handed over to the party which will come out victorious in the election.

Referring to the role of BBC in meddling into the internal affairs of Bangladesh and inciting the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, President Ershad regretted that when bomb attack was made on the British prime minister, the BBC described the incident as a terrorist act. But when a Bangladesh minister was injured in a bomb blast, the radio termed it as part of democratic

movement. The president said these elements have become alarmed at the rapid growth of our development because they do not want to see that our country become self-reliant. The president said some political elements wanted the Constitution as it was in 1972. But he declared that since the people of the country believed in Bangladeshi nationalism and incorporated Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim [we begin with the name of God, the most compassionate and merciful], we cannot allow these elements to change the basic things of the Constitution against the wish of the people.

The president said the opposition movement of hartal [strike] and disruption of normal life is a conspiracy against the independence and sovereignty of the country. He called upon the people to thwart such conspiracy. He also mentioned about the hindrances created due to disruption in communication system in the [words indistinct] flood relief and rehabilitation program and said the opposition leaders do not care if their action would increase agony and distress of the innocent flood-affected people.

Further on Elections

BK130145 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said that elections will be held and there is no scope for taking any decision by passing the Constitution and the verdict of the people. He was addressing the extended meeting of the Jatiya Party at the party headquarters in Dhaka yesterday. The president said the government is determined to uphold the basic principles of the Constitution.

President Ershad, who is the chairman of Jatiya Party, said his party will continue its efforts to achieve greater national cohesion on the basis of the spirit of the war of independence. He said peace and discipline must be ensured to continue the development process initiated by his government for the uplift of the common man.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and party Secretary General Shah Moazzam Hussain called for national unity for resolving all problems. He said Jatiya Party, under the leadership of President Ershad, believes in the politics of unity and understanding for developing the country.

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and ministers were also present at the meeting.

All BBC Operations To Close Down 12 Dec

BK120226 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The government has decided to close down all BBC operations in and from this country with immediate effect. An official announcement in Dhaka last night said the decision has been taken in greater national interest in view of continuing hostile and tendentious propaganda by that organization despite repeated protests. The Dhaka office of BBC is being closed down. Any Bangladeshi national trying to establish contact with or translate news to BBC will do so at his own risk.

The announcement said BBC continued to propagate highly mischievous, tendentious, and motivated stories with ulterior motives which (?are) tantamount to subversion and sedition. It said in consideration of BBC's hostile acts, the apology offered by that organization to the chief of Army Staff is not acceptable to the government.

BBC Reporter Expelled

BK120522 Hong Kong AFP in English 0518 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 12 (AFP)—A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) correspondent was expelled Saturday from Bangladesh, diplomatic sources here said.

They said the reporter, Phil Jones, was taken from the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka in a police jeep to the capital's airport where he was expected to be put on a flight to Calcutta.

Earlier, special branch personnel had taken away his passport and cancelled his visa, the sources said. [passage omitted]

1 Dead, 102 Injured in Violence; Strike Called

BK120854 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Dec 12 (AFP)—One person was killed, 102 injured and 10 arrested across Bangladesh in violence that preceded an opposition-called general strike Saturday to press for the government's resignation, diplomatic sources said. [passage omitted]

In Dhaka, the dawn-to-dusk strike called by the opposition kept most traffic off the streets Saturday except for a few bicycle rickshaws and government-run buses. Major shopping centres were closed, the sources said, citing witnesses.

Banks and business houses remained open but there was limited activity.

In the southeastern port city of Chittagong, most shops and offices remained open but there was little traffic on the roads, the sources added.

They quoted reports as saying that one person was killed and 50 injured Friday in clashes between strike supporters and opponents in Kushtia District town, southwest of Dhaka. Police arrested three people.

Police in Gazipur District town, north of Dhaka, fired in the air to disperse opposition activists who attempted to hold a rally, they said. A total of 35 people, including 11 policemen, were injured.

The diplomatic sources said there were reports that five people had been injured and two arrested when police broke up a procession Friday by opposition supporters in Satkania town, near Chittagong.

In Narayanganj town near Dhaka, police arrested five people after an attempted procession in support of the strike. Two home-made bombs exploded but no one was injured, the sources added.

In Manikganj town, west of Dhaka, 10 people were injured in a series of explosions late Friday.

Police said two bombs exploded Friday evening in Dhaka's old Thathari Bazaar District, seriously injuring two people.

Political activities, including marches and rallies, have been banned since the government proclaimed a state of emergency on November 27.

The government said Friday it had decided to relax curbs on indoor political activities, by allowing political parties to hold meetings in their offices. The decision came amid renewed appeals by Mr. Ershad on opposition leaders to open a dialogue and participate in parliamentary elections to be held before a constitutional deadline of March 8. Mr. Ershad dissolved Parliament Sunday.

Opposition leaders have rejected the offers and insisted that the political crisis can only end with the resignation of Mr. Ershad and his government.

Only 'Indoor' Politics Allowed From 12 Dec

BK120220 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The government has decided to allow indoor politics with effect from today. It was officially announced in Dhaka last night. The announcement said the ban imposed recently under the provisions of emergency on processions, rallies, and public meetings will, however, continue to remain in force. Restrictions on processions, rallies, and meetings imposed under provisions of the state of emergency will be relaxed at the Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in Dhaka on Monday next on the occasion of Intellectuals Martyrs Day. According to an official announcement, similar relaxations will also be allowed at the Sawar National Memorial on Wednesday next in observance of the Victory Day.

5-Party Alliance Holds Dhaka News Conference

BK121510 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1430 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The five-party alliance explained its role in the country's current political situation at a news conference in Dhaka today. Among other things, this alliance has reiterated its demand for holding a free and fair election under a neutral caretaker government to pave the way for defusing the current situation.

In a statement issued in Dhaka today, Abdur Razzak, general secretary of the Bangladesh Awami Krishak Sramik Awami League, demanded the release of all political prisoners, the withdrawal of arrest warrants against political leaders and workers, and the lifting of restrictions on newspapers.

Opposition Leaders Call For End to Emergency

BK121724 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, has reiterated her call for immediate withdrawal of emergency to create a congenial political atmosphere. Addressing a news conference in Dhaka today, she said any attempt by any quarter to come to power by unconstitutional means will be resisted.

Leader of BNP, Begum Khaleda Zia, told newsmen at the National Press Club in Dhaka today that struggle for democracy would continue to establish the right of the people. During her visit to the National Press Club, she was accompanied by her party leaders.

In a joint statement issued in Dhaka today, the president and the general secretary of the National Awami Party, Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, and Mr Pankaj Bhattacharya, called upon the government to follow the path of peaceful solution of the crisis prevailing in the country. They also demanded the release of political detenues.

Opposition Demands Specific Election Date

BK131639 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal [National Socialist Party] President Mohammad Shah Jahan and General Secretary Noore Alam Jikku in a joint statement in Dhaka today called upon the social forces composed of 5 crore voters in the country to play a leading role in enforcing the constitutional obligation without relying on political parties or alliances. They said since holding of parliamentary election within 90 days of dissolution of the house by the president is obligatory under the Constitution, the election is now a national responsibility.

The central working committee of the Jamiat-i Islami in a meeting in Dhaka this evening demanded lifting of restrictions imposed on the newspapers and release of all political detenus, including the Jamiat leaders. The meeting was presided over by a senior member, Alhaj Mohammad Shafiqullah.

The president of Krishak Shramik Party, A.S.M. Sulaiman, and acting chairman of Jana Dal, Mr M.A.Hai, in separate statements have said all quarters, who are in favor of keeping the constitutional process continued, should demonstrate flexible attitude in the greater interest of the country and the people and would put forward the preconditions of holding a free and fair election, failing which, they said, it will not bring good to anybody if democratic process is banished as a result of somebody's intransigence.

Jatiya Janata Party chief Sheikh Assad has said his party aims to restore people's sovereignty through parliamentary democracy by returning to the Constitution before its (?fourth) amendment.

The Politburo of Workers Party of Bangladesh has reiterated its demand for holding elections under an interim government.

Freedom Party leaders retired Colonel Syed Farooq Rahman and retired Colonel Abdur Rashid in a joint statement called upon the government to immediately announce a specific date for holding of parliamentary elections.

Another six political and social organizations today called for resolving the present political crisis through a meaningful national dialogue. In a joint press release, they condemned the politics of bomb blast and destruction.

India

No Confidence Motion Defeated; Gandhi Speaks

BK111313 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister has declared that there will be no mid-term poll. He said the people have elected us for 5 years and we will remain in government for 5 years. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was replying to the debate on the no confidence motion against his government in the Lok Sabha today. The house rejected the motion by a voice vote.

In his reply lasting over 2 hours, Mr Gandhi refuted all the opposition allegations and charged it with bankruptcy of thinking, ideas, and vision. He denied the opposition charge that the government has been following a policy of confrontation. Who started the opposition conclave, the prime minister asked pointedly.

Referring to the state of economy, Mr Gandhi said it had moved ahead in the 3 years as never before. The overall growth of the economy this year is also all-time high. He said the country is proud of all those who made this possible.

About drought relief, the prime minister made it clear that the Center will not release any fresh fund unless the states account for earlier assistance.

Referring to Center-state relations, Mr Gandhi maintained that his government has cordial relations with the state governments. He reminded the opposition that he had not dismissed a single state government on political considerations.

Gandhi on Sri Lanka, USSR, China

BK111648 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The prime minister has declared that there will be no mid-term poll. He said his government has been elected for 5 years and it will stay for 5 years. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was intervening in the debate on the no confidence motion against his government in the Lok Sabha today. [passage omitted]

Referring to the Center-state relations, Mr Gandhi maintained that his government has cordial relations with the state governments. He reminded the opposition that he has not dismissed a single state government on political considerations. The Barnala government in Punjab had to be dismissed on grounds of law and order situation, he said.

The prime minister, however, made it clear that if any state government is found to be taking an antinational direction, it would be dismissed regardless of whatever majority it enjoys.

Mr Gandhi pointed out that whenever a case of corruption was brought to his notice involving a central minister or a Congress-I chief minister, he asked them to resign. He said this is not the case with the opposition chief ministers. He said despite difficulties it will be the endeavor of his government to maintain good Center-state relations.

The prime minister asserted that the opposition cannot show even a single case of discrimination against any non-Congress-I ruled state in the matter of plan fund allocation. He, however, regretted that some state governments are diverting plan fund for non-plan activities. [passage omitted]

Turning to the price rise, Mr Gandhi admitted that it was a difficult situation and a cause of worry to the government. He assured the house that government will

do its best to tackle it. It will be ensured that the inflation rate is kept within a single digit. Steps are also being taken to see that the rabi [seasonal] crop this year is good.

The prime minister reaffirmed government's commitment to remove corruption and said strictest action will be taken against whom charges are proved. He pointed out that an inquiry was constituted into every instance of corruption brought to the notice of the government.

Referring to the Thakkar-Natarajan Commission report on the Fairfax issue, Mr Gandhi said it has forcefully vindicated his government's stand.

About the Bofors issue, the prime minister said our commitment to truth was demonstrated by the setting up of the joint parliamentary committee. He had a dig at the opposition, saying that those who were afraid of the truth stayed away from the committee.

Talking about the country's foreign policy, the prime minister mentioned the initiatives taken by the government in regard to Africa, Nonaligned Movement, SAARC, and world peace. He particularly referred to India's efforts to bring about disarmament and world peace. He said India has contributed in its own way in this direction which ultimately led to the signing of the agreement between the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and the U.S. President, Mr Reagan, on the elimination of the land-based intermediate nuclear missiles.

About the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, he said it has been acclaimed world over and it answers the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils.

He said our relations with the Soviet Union have been further strengthened. On relations with China, Mr Gandhi said there is a forward movement. [passage omitted]

Gandhi Comments on Punjab, Nonaligned Movement
BK111649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Addressing the Congress-I parliamentary party [CPPI], the prime minister said that some more steps will be taken to bring down the prices.

Referring to Punjab, the prime minister said that for the first time the trend in the state is very positive and encouraging as the people are coming forward in a big way to fight the terrorist.

The prime minister reiterated that India will not deviate from its nonaligned policy.

The CPPI adopted a resolution welcoming the historic INF treaty signed by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and the U.S. President, Mr Reagan.

Minister Makes Statement on INF Treaty
BK140816 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Parliament was assured that India will continue to pursue through all available means the long cherished goal of a nuclear-free world. This assurance was given by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, while making a detailed statement in both houses of parliament on the INF treaty signed in Washington by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and the U.S. President, Mr Reagan.

The minister said that the journey toward the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons is going to be a long and arduous one. But there is no alternative to persevering with this journey with renewed vigor and faith. India will continue to work tirelessly to achieve this objective through the six-nation initiative, the forthcoming third special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and the Nonaligned Movement. While considering the long-term impact of the INF treaty, the minister expressed India's concern at some of the recent trends. He said while the treaty eliminates one category of nuclear weapons, the nuclear arms race shows no sign of receding.

Mr Natwar Singh recalled India's efforts since its independence to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament. He said as early as in 1954 Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave a call for the banning of nuclear weapon tests. India played a leading role in getting a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly, in 1965 declaring the use of nuclear weapons as a crime against humanity.

Navy Reportedly Buys 2 Soviet Nuclear Submarines
BK140804 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 14 (AFP)—India has bought two more submarines from the Soviet Union, a Navy spokesman said here Monday, amid reports they were the country's first nuclear-powered vessels.

The first of the two submarines, armed with conventional weapons but nuclear-propelled, is scheduled to go into service in January 1988, news reports said.

A Navy spokesman in New Delhi said he could not give any details as the two Soviet-built submarines were "highly classified."

The submarines were built by the Soviet Union in the 1970's and can cruise at 24 knots while submerged, the INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper said.

Naval sources said the two vessels did not belong to the "Kilo-class" of conventional Soviet submarines.

The Indian Navy has boosted its existing fleet of eight submarines, most of them Soviet-built, with two West German submarine to submarine killer (SSK) type vessels this year.

India plans to build four SSK submarines in the next eight years.

3 Policemen Killed in West Bengal Gurkha Ambush

BK120329 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, three CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [personnel] and a civilian were killed when GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] men ambushed a CRPF convoy between Pashupati and Mirik near the Indo-Nepal border in Darjeeling district yesterday. The GNLF men attacked the convoy while it was returning from (Pokharia Pong). Two police vehicles were also burned.

The state home secretary said in Calcutta that two persons have been arrested in connection with the attack on the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of police for Darjeeling Range.

2 More Companies Deployed

BK121628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The center has dispatched two additional companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] to trouble-torn areas of Darjeeling in West Bengal. The state minister, Mr Budhadev Bhattacharya, told newsmen that the CRPF party is already on its way for deployment in the disturbed areas.

A forest checkpost and three farms were set ablaze by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Force] men. Two policemen were injured at (Gunma Bhanjan) when bombs were thrown.

The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, today reviewed the situation with some of his cabinet colleagues and senior officials in Calcutta.

2 Senior Punjab Police Officials Shot Dead

BK140640 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, the district police chief, Patiala, Mr A.S. Brar, and S.P. [Superintendent of Police] headquarters, Mr K.R.S. Gill, were shot dead by terrorists in Patiala this morning. The two senior police officers were doing their daily exercise in the National Institute of Sports when the terrorists opened fire. According to an official spokesman, while two of the terrorists were dressed in track suits the other two had covered themselves with blankets. Senior police officers from Chandigarh rushed to the spot and major operations were launched in the area to apprehend the culprits.

Restrictions on Sikh Leader's Movement Lifted

BK130815 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, the orders restricting movements of the acting head priest of Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion], Professor Darshan Singh, within his residence at Zirakpur have been withdrawn. The district magistrate, Patiala, had issued an order about 10 days ago to prevent Professor Darshan Singh from going to Delhi to lead a protest march.

In a statement in Chandigarh today, the state governor, Mr S.S. Ray, said that the restrictions were imposed since the government had credible information that some antinational terrorists would pose a serious threat to the life of Professor Darshan Singh if he went to Delhi. Mr Ray said the antinational terrorists are fast losing ground on both psychological and law and order fronts.

Iran

Oil Official Says Khomeyni in 'Good Health'

JN141622 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1600 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Speaking in Vienna, Iranian Deputy Petroleum Minister Hoseyn Ardabili has denied recent rumors that Ayatollah Khomeyni is ill. He said Khomeyni is enjoying very good health.

New Will Names Montazeri as Successor

TA141132 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] At a time when discussion and comment about Khomeyni's will continues, and in view of the fact that this new will has been placed in the Islamic Majlis, our co-strugglers report that Hoseyni 'Ali Montazeri has succeeded, by an unparalleled measure, in neutralizing all the attacks and intrigues by the band of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Ahmad Khomeyni, and Sadeq Tabataba'i. These attacks, which had intensified in recent months, had resulted in the execution of Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, as well as the banishment of Montazeri's bureau chief and son. Montazeri succeeded in being named the successor to Khomeyni as the velayat-e faqih after Khomeyni's death. Our co-strugglers affirm that after Khomeyni's death, Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri will be the Islamic Republic's most powerful clergyman.

Our co-strugglers have also reported that Khomeyni's will was changed because of his worsening health, the loss of 90 percent of his eyesight, and a weight loss. At the same time, the terms of the previous will, which had made the appointment of the future velayat-e faqih conditional on a decision by the Assembly of Experts—in which Montazeri's opponents had a total majority—

have changed. In Khomeyni's new will, several conditions for choosing a new velayat-e faqih have been deleted. Ruhollah Khomeyni has explicitly appointed Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri as his successor and considers this decision binding.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh Leaves OPEC Session

LD141029 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 14 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 14, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who left the ongoing 82nd session of oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) here, Monday morning said that Iran was not ready to sign the proposed agreement of the session.

Speaking to IRNA prior to leaving Vienna he said that the main objective of the Iranian delegation in attending the session was to explore and find ways of compensating for losses caused by the slump in dollar value. However, "since discussion on the issue was postponed to future OPEC sessions and since Iran was not ready to sign the agreement, I left the session".

In the light of the present conditions, he added, he had to consult with ranking advisers in Tehran prior to signing any agreement.

Aqazadeh further added that his final decision in signing the agreement would depend on the views of the Iranian Government. He added that he would work to this end.

On the basis of the agreement reached in the ongoing OPEC session the combined ceiling for 12 OPEC members for the first half of the 1988 will be 15.06 million barrels per day. Iraq has been assigned no quota and will continue to produce outside OPEC'S decisions, he said. Furthermore, the session has set oil price at dollars 18.00 per barrel for the said period.

Aqazadeh added that the agreement has called for a careful monitoring of production of OPEC members, and that in the event of any violation OPEC oil ministers will hold an emergency session.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Constitution

LD121127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Sayyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verses omitted] As last week was the anniversary of the approval of the Constitution [by the Council of Experts in 1979], I regard this as a suitable opportunity to say a few words about this very important and basic issue of our revolution. In the first sermon today I will discuss this issue, but I hope that in future, on different occasions, I will be able to do so again. [Koranic verse omitted]

This is one of our most important issues: the issue of safeguarding the Constitution and protecting it against individual whims, tastes, personal views, group thinking, and so on. The principles followed by a society are embodied in that society's Constitution. First of all, in order for our sisters and brothers to appreciate the importance of the Constitution, I will discuss and explain its main features in a few short sentences. The Constitution is the basic framework of the life of the society. It is a framework within which and on the basis of which and according to whose guidelines all the activities of the society are carried out. This is what we call a constitution. In other words, the Constitution is the same as the revolution. The meaning of the revolution is not that we merely promote a movement and remove a system. On the contrary, the revolution means that we replace the old system with a correct system, a new way of life, and with new values in our society and in the lives of our people. This is what is meant by a revolution.

Therefore, when a nation has engaged in self-sacrifice, shed its blood, sacrificed its youth, labored for many years; when many leaders have done their best for that nation; and when that nation, through its heroism, has succeeded in removing the enemies from its path and eradicated the evil system, what is going to be the outcome of this revolution, this new move, this new life? What new form will that society assume? Now that the enemies and the lackeys have gone, when the agents of Satan and arrogance have been scattered; when we wish to base, administer, and advance our lives according to our own values; when we desire to live as Muslims free and be independent, how shall we organize ourselves so that the above goals may be achieved? The answer to this question is provided by the Constitution.

The Constitution tells us how to form our government; advance our economies; organize our culture; regulate our social relations; and how the individuals, personalities, and officials should act, so that we can achieve the desired, ideal life for which we sacrificed so many lives, and for which we labored and worked so hard. Therefore, the Constitution is the embodiment of the revolution. This is the meaning of the Constitution.

For this reason the Constitution has clear enemies. All those people who are hostile toward the revolution are also hostile toward the revolution's Constitution. All those who want the revolution to cease to exist also want the Constitution to cease to exist. If you remember, when the Council of Experts was formed in 1979, a few months after the victory, to draw up the Constitution, there was much opposition, many hostile remarks against the Council of Experts from different directions, the like of which could not be seen in connection with other issues

of the revolution. What was the reason for that? The reason was that the enemy was vigilant and knew that the Constitution would consolidate the revolution, embody the revolution, bring it into fruition, and create a framework and yardstick for it, and this is why the enemy was against it.

The opposition to the Constitution was all that fuss about the Council of Experts. Here at the University of Tehran, throughout the town of Tehran, in the press which was inspirated by the aliens and characters who had that kind of leaning, in all of them we saw how they created a great fuss against the Council of Experts and against every single article of the Constitution which concerned the basic issues of the revolution. One kind of opposition was to try to disrupt the work of drawing up the Constitution. I remember well that in the very first session, when the Council of Experts was formed to draw up the Constitution, one of the persons who was clearly inspired by aliens—later he fled and became a fugitive from this country and from this revolution, and in fact fled from the wrath of the people—started a rambling discourse about giving autonomy to different parts of the country from the start. From the first day he tried to include certain things in the Constitution. It should be noted that our Council of Experts was a very distinguished council and no one in that council succeeded in implementing any right on behalf of the enemies of the revolution and of Islam.

Concerning the principle of velayat-e faqih [the rule of the chief jurisconsult], the most basic principle in the revolution and in the system of the Islamic Republic, what an uproar there was in those days both outside the Council of Experts, as well as inside the council. They were trying to prevent this principle, which is the basic point of our system, from taking shape and from being approved. There were many other forms of opposition. All the opposition was against the importance of the Constitution, because the Constitution is the embodiment and the framework of the system, and the enemies knew full well that if they insulted this Constitution, if they could weaken it, if they could dismantle it, or if they could prevent its approval, then they could have delivered blows and done harm to the revolution itself.

Fortunately, the Constitution of the Islamic Republic became a very distinct Constitution, a Constitution with 175 principles that were approved in 3 months, in 67 sessions of the Council of Experts, by the most select representatives of this nation. At the head of that Council was a personality like his holiness the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [the crowd chants God's benediction and salutation upon Muhammad and his scion. This is normally said after the name of the Prophet and, since the revolution, whenever Khomeyni's name is mentioned. However, this is the first time that this formula has been monitored in chants after the mention of Montazeri's name], may God protect him and may God extend his shadow; and another distinguished personality like Martyr Beheshti. The council was also made up of a large number of Muslim jurists, scholars, laywers, politicians, intellectuals, preachers, and other distinguished persons, many of whom were later martyred. Some of our martyred prayer leaders, and some erudite and precious martyrs, both clerical and nonclerical, were all assembled in that council. They were, in fact, very distinguished persons and they succeeded in drawing up the Constitution. Of course, there were also some individuals in that council who were not very suitable characters, but their unsuitability became clear with the passage of time.

The principles, goals, and foundations of this Constitution are among the best and most distinguished principles of any Constitution in the world. First of all, this Constitution is based on sources that are very clear to the world of Islam. In the message of his holiness the imam—may his shadow long continue—to the Council of Experts, he pointed out that the Constitution should be drawn up in such a way that other countries and other Muslim nations could use it as their model, as indeed they should.

The main principle of the Constitution is the Koran and the sunnah [traditions regarding Muhammad's life and words]. In all the principles of this Constitution due attention has been paid to the divine verses and to the explicit and implicit texts of the book of God and the sunnah. Alongside all this are the counsels and guidance of our beloved imam, whose expertise in Islamic jurisprudence, in philosophy, whose sagacity and intelligence, and whose sincere servitude are clear to all. The qualities of this illustrious person, who is the beloved of the hearts of the oppressed people throughout the world, are clear to all, and his guidance was taken into account and implemented. Moreover, the principles which were part of the thinking of all Muslim and militant intellectuals and revolutionaries were also embodied in the Constitution. This is how the 175 principles of the Constitution came into being.

Of course, I do not want to claim that this Constitution is completely free of faults or shortcomings and that it is perfect. Nothing created by the hands of men is perfect. Certainly our Constitution may also have some shortcomings that should be identified with the passage of time and corrected in a proper and normal fashion. However, this Constitution is one of the most progressive, strongest, and most constructive constitutions of the world and of the world of Islam that we know of.

A number of basic goals have been considered in this Constitution. I will read these to you, and you will see how important they are, how essential and necessary every one of those goals is for an Islamic society. Of course, there may be other goals which I might miss; but these are the most important goals.

The first goal was to create an Islamic government on the basis of velayat-e faqih. This was something very new and novel for the world of Islam. There were many

people who claimed to be forming Islamic governments; but those who were leading those governments were individuals who had no knowledge of and no expertise in Islam. How is it possible for someone to rule over an Islamic society without knowing Islam properly or whose attachment to Islam, or actions on the basis of Islam may be in doubt? As far as we know, this Islamic government was the first to be founded upon velayat-e faqih, i.e., there is someone at the head of the government who understands Islam better then others, who is more familiar with the book and the sunnah, and who is also exemplary in piety and in practical observance, namely, that his piety, his observance, and his belief is clear and manifest. This first goal was something extremely new and novel.

The second goal of the Constitution was to achieve the unity of the country, general security, and an organic and fundamental relationship between all organizations. If you look at our Constitution, you will see that all national organs are closely connected like the different parts of one body, and all of them are connected to the central core of velayat-e faqih. The legislative body of the country has its resolutions approved by the Council of Guardians, and the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians, half of whose members are appointed by the chief jurisconsult [Khomeyni]. The executive branch has a president, and he carries out his responsibilities with the signature and approval of the imam of the ummah after receiving the people's votes. The judicial system is headed by the Supreme Judicial Council, and two important elements of the Supreme Judicial Council should be acceptable to, confirmed by, and appointed by the chief jurisconsult. Consequently, all these organizations are connected, bound together; and all of them led up at the top of the pyramid, namely, the chief jurisconsult. One of the goals of the Constitution was to connect and link up all these organizations and to create a relationship between them.

Another goal of the Constitution was not to concentrate all power in one place, because this step has produced a very bitter experience for our country and for all other countries. Whenever power has been concentrated in the hands of one person, when that person became powerful, when he felt that he could act independently, that he did not need others, that he was not supervised from above, he would rebel. Man becomes rebellious when he sees himself without need. [Koranic verse] In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, power has been divided between various centers in the most wonderful way. Of course, if we look carefully, we can see that coordination and unity of action between all these different centers is also enshrined in the Constitution; and if it is properly implemented, this coordination will be fully achieved.

In the Council of Experts there were certain individuals who tried to concentrate power in one person, a person whose qualifications and whose freedom from guilt and from mistakes was in no way predicated on the Constitution.

Another goal of the Constitution was to implement Islamic aspirations in the country and in Islamic society. Islam has set out certain aspirations for humanity. One of its goals is to create a suitable environment in which people can grow and advance. This is one of the Islamic goals. Without possessing a healthy climate, human beings cannot achieve their human and divine perfection. Another goal is to create social freedom for society, that is, to ensure social justice for society, for the public welfare, and to raise the standard of living so that people may enjoy a good life. This goal would eliminate poverty and destitution in society. These are Islamic aspirations. Other goals included the creation of spirituality in Islamic society, so that the people would not be immersed in worldly and material things and would turn toward spirituality, and that their hearts and their souls would turn toward God. These are also some Islamic goals. The Constitution has paid due attention to all these goals and has tried to implement each of them in some way. It is the duty of the Majlis to pass resolutions toward this end. This was also one of the goals of the Constitution.

Apart from that, our Constitution has not limited its gaze to Iran, to our country, and to our society. Rather, it has also directed its attention to the general problems of all Muslims and to the great Islamic ummah. Everything needed for the unity of Islamic nations and the formation of a unified ummah are set out in the Constitution. Our Constitution has made all the officials of the Islamic Republic dutybound to attention to and act upon them. This was yet another goal of our Constitution.

Another goal of the Constitution was to ensure that in our Islamic society the people play their true role in political, economic, cultural, and other fields. The Constitution has made great efforts to ensure that in the Islamic Republic, the government will not take a position against the people nor be regarded as a rival and opponent of the people. In the Islamic Republic, the people are on the side of the government; they take part in cultural affairs, economic affairs, and in productive and development activities. All sorts of duties are entrusted to the people themselves. This was also foreseen in the Constitution. These were the goals of the Constitution, and when you scrutinize them you will see that there are no other goals more comprehensive, more progressive, better, and more necessary for our society than these. This is our Constitution.

Therefore, you can see that the Constitution is truly and sincerely an exceptional one, as seen in its sources, how it was drafted, by whom it was approved, what goals and aspirations it follows. If we wish to fully realize the goals of our revolution, if we wish to implement our revolution, we should act fully and explicitly in accordance with this Constitution. The day when a president can announce to the Iranian people that he can assure the people that all the principles of the Constitution are fully

implemented in the country, on that day our revolution will have achieved its final and complete victory. This is the nature of our Constitution.

The Constitution forms a framework that covers all the needs and requirements of our revolution. This shows the importance of the Constitution for our system and for our country. Such a constitution should be safeguarded. One should fight to protect this Constitution. The enemies are still vigilant; they still plan to deliver blows at the revolution and, similarly, at the Constitution. The Constitution itself has also clearly defined responsibilities. The Constitution has specified two important bodies that should protect the Constitution. In the field of legislation, it is the Council of Guardians, and in the executive field, the president. These two organs are dutybound to make sure that the Constitution is protected in the Islamic Republic, that all its principles are implemented, that it is not violated by anyone, and that no laws are passed that oppose its goals. It is natural that the people are the greatest protectors and guardians of the Constitution; and if those who have been given the responsibility and the formal task of guarding the Constitution do not enjoy the support of the public, the Constitution will certainly not be protected. It is up to the people themselves to protect their Constitution, which in fact means that they should protect their revolution. In his executive capacity the president is dutybound to be vigilant, to be wakeful, and to ensure that no organization acts contrary to the Constitution. The Council of Guardians should also be wakeful and vigilant and make sure that no law and no resolution is approved contrary to the Constitution. These are the provisions of the Constitution.

Of course, human nature is rebellious. Men do not want to be restrained by any framework. Every law creates certain limitations and pressures for certain individuals. Every law, even the most progressive law, even religious and Koranic Laws, as well as our own Constitution contain certain things that some individuals or some officials view as restrictions. They wish to remove, to cancel that part of the Constitution which imposes some limitations, or they try to avoid that part. Well, if, on any given day, different parts of society or different officials gradually ignore and cut the Constitution bit by bit, if they ignore the Constitution and no not act upon it, then soon nothing will be left of the Constitution. If those same individuals, who feel that the Constitution of the Islamic Republic creates certain limitations for them and does not allow them to act freely, look carefully they will see that those limitations are in their interests. That bitter medicine will be the source of their cure. Their wisdom, their intelligence, their revolutionary spirit, their interest in the revolution is less than the wisdom, the taste, the interest, and the revolutionary attitude of those 70-odd persons who spent 3 months formulating this Constitution—among whom one can see distinguished individuals such as the illustrious faqih, like Martyr Beheshti, and scores of our illustrious and honorable martyrs.

Occasionally, one hears that some people say they want to do something, but the Constitution prevents them. They do whatever they want and think that their action is a revolutionary action. I tell them that their actions are contrary to the Constitution, not revolutionary. It is a counterrevolutionary action; it weakens the Constitution. Any action directed at weakening the Constitution is a counterrevolutionary action, whether the man who commits that act knows it or not. Some people do these things with good intentions, with goodwill; they are not aware of what they are doing. However, a counterrevolutionary action, even if it is carried out in ignorance, is still a counterrevolutionary action. The person who does this may not be guilty, but he is committing an offence.

In the preface to the book on the detailed minutes of discussions in the Council of Experts—the author being the speaker of the Council of Experts, His Excellency Grand Ayatollah Montazeri—there is a very interesting and deeply meaningful statement that I have written down and will read to you dear ones and those who will hear my remarks across the country. In the preface to the detailed minutes of the discussions in the Council of Experts, published a few years ago, his excellency has written: To have a deep, noble and codified constitution that is praised in slogans is not sufficient.

We have such a constitution and continiously chant slogans. We are chanting slogans across the world in the name of the Constitution, proclaiming that our Constitution says this or that. The entire world hears this and realizes that such a constitution is one to boast about. He says: Having a deep, noble, and codified constitution that is praised in slogans is not sufficient, nor will it solve problems. What is important is that active consideration be given to its values and contents in all aspects of running the country and within the three branches.

If we want to have this Constitution solve our problems, run the country and make it operate, then all officials should consider themselves dutybound before God, the leader of the revolution, and the people, to follow the Constituion to the letter. If they do not follow it, no matter what the excuse, then such a constitution will have no benefit. His excellency adds: If we, the people who have felt and understood the revolution, the people who created this revolution and who have breathed the air of the revolution, cannot safeguard this Constitution, then how can future generations who will be reading about the revolution in books or hear about it from others and who have not felt it, safeguard the Constitution of the revolution?

This is a very true and sound statement. I say that if personal preferences interfere with the Constitution and if every minister, manager, boss, or judge tries to interpret a part of the Constitution according to his own ideas or not follow certain articles, then great losses will take place, some of which I have noted down and will tell you about.

First of all, it leads to the deterioration of law observance in society. Society will lose respect for the law. When this brick is removed from the wall, then respect for the law in society will weaken. Society will no longer be united in respecting the law. Respect for the law and the system of law in society will weaken. The next problem will be that social rights, individual rights, and the responsibilities of organizations, officials, and individuals will become confused. People will not know what their rights are and from where they come. Officials will not know what their duties are and how to perform them. The third loss will be that personal preferences will become the norm. Today, I will rule on the Constitution, thinking that I have done the ultimate thing, I have done the right, correct, and best thing and do something contrary to the Constitution. Tomorrow, there will be another one with ideas totally opposite to mine. If he violates the Constitution in the some way, then another person in a different way and so on, then nothing will be left. Society will no longer be at one with the law. it will become a society of preferences.

The other loss would be the chaotic effect in the decisionmaking process of the government. Who is the one that determines the regime of the Islamic Republic can make long-term plans about political, economic, and cultural issues? It is the Constitution. It is the Constitution that gives the fundamental powers to the government of the Islamic Republic to enable it set out policy, to plan. If the Constitution is altered, if the organizations do not feel dutybound, then there will be chaos in the decisionmaking process. For example, assume that today the regime of the Islamic Republic makes a decision on political issues because of current understanding, interest, and trends, and a few days later, because of another type of understanding and necessity, it does the exact opposite. It would make a decision, devise a slogan regarding an economic issue today and act on it, and sometime later, because of another necessity, because of a need, because someone has changed, an official, then the opposite policy would be adopted. Such contrary policies and chaos will hurt the country.

Another problem is that values in the system of the Islamic Republic will be lowered. The Constitution has established values. You may see me assuming a position with my own preferences and introduce something—an economic activity, a military activity, or another such thing—as a value in society. Tomorrow, someone else will come who will call this a counter value. Values would mix and become lower. There would be no indication of what is in keeping with or against the values of Islamic society.

Another problem is that there would be no responsibility, that is, no official would accept responsibility. Whenever there is a problem anywhere in the country and you go to someone for an accounting, they will say that they are not responsible, it is someone else's problem. The Constitution has established clearly defined areas of responsibility. It is clear who is responsible for what area in the country. If the Constitution is corrupted and not followed, if it becomes just some written words kept somewhere and is not part of the reality of the society, then responsibilities will be abrogated and the results of this will ultimately be chaos in the system and the weakening of the system of the Islamic Republic.

These are the problems and dangers of ignoring the Constitution. Therefore, as an official within the system of the Islamic Republic, I advise and ask all officials, all the people, all spokesmen, all those with opinions, all the representatives of the people in the Majlis, and all those who, in any way, have something to do with the Constitution to pay attention to the importance of the Constitution.

Second Sermon on Political Events

LD120019 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran on 11 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Koranic verses and chants from crowd omitted] Some of the topics I will cover today will recall some of the splendid, instructive memories of the history of our revolution and some will recall important contemporary events in our country and in the world. [passages omitted on anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Dastghayb, a former militant clergyman; and anniversary of directive for formation of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council]

An important event of the last 2 weeks have been these impressive and wonderful maneuvers and the enthusiasm of all the people who participated from all corners of the country and from everywhere in the Islamic homeland. After the maneuvers came the dispatches [to the fronts]. To tell the truth, I am speechless and do not know how to thank the dear people. I have nothing new to say that you do not know about. You saw and witnessed how in every town there were huge gatherings whether or not they were staged in the presence of the country's officials or were organized without their presence by those heroic and dear provinces such as Khuzestan, Lorestan, Bakhtaran, Baluchestan va Sistan, Gilan, and other provinces. The presence of the people is something to be thankful for and we officials cannot express our thanks in words. This showed the power, strength, and greatness of the revolution in the 7th year of the war and the 8th year of the war [as heard] and in the 9th year of the victory of the revolution in motivating the people. This showed how this nation, when it decides and feels strongly about something, when it reaches a certain point in awareness, can dazzle the world. [passage omitted repeating same theme]

Last week the dispatches to the fronts began, but I would like to advise the IRGC officials to keep the dispatch lines open as there is still a large number of persons who want to go to the fronts. The number of volunteers is

great; they keep coming to tell us that they were unable to make it to those centers where they have to register their names and take their turn. The brothers of the IRGC must, God willing, continue working on the the timetables. The brothers must tell those eager and willing people to go to the centers when their turn is coming so that the latter may know whether they are departing in 1, 3, or 6 months. They are needed and they must go so that the policy of continuing blows and the policy of successive blows—the new strategic policy of the Islamic Republic—may be implemented and may continue, God willing.

Concerning the financial jihad: This financial jihad has turned into something really incredible. It has reached unbelievable dimensions; I do not find this surprising. No such action on the part of our dear people could surprise us. However, when you clearly observe certain things in people, you thank God and at the same time you cannot help but be surprised and wonder at all this progress, growth, and self-sacrificing spirit. I have observed some examples of this in the journeys I have made to various provinces and have also observed this in Tehran. I described some of these examples in every city; whatever interesting example I found, I described it to the inhabitants of that city. There are many examples which are truly incredible and I have jotted down two or three examples of these so that you have some idea.

Here is a sample of the wonderful and strange letters that are being written to me. A family, the father of the family, invited his children who were married to come home—his sons with their wives and his daughters with their husbands. When all of them assemble, first the father of the family, a grandfather, makes a speech to the family on the need to thank God for his blessings and the greatest blessing of the God, which is the very existence of this great and exalted leader that God has given us. We must give thanks for the presence of this great man, a man in whose time we live and under whose shadow we exist. These thanks must not be confined to language; we must show our thanks with deeds. I ask you please to participate in this financial jihad.

It is said that this gentleman's daughters then and there demanded their dowry, and quickly cashed it. The daughters-in-law of the gentlemen received their dowry from their husbands, the sons of that gentleman. Perhaps the gentleman's own wife also demanded her own dowry. The whole family piled up all the cash and valuables they had with them. The children put all their savings in as well. The total sum provides the support for several fighters—the whole sum is paid into Account No 55. Then they say this is the quota of our family. This is a living and wonderful example of domestic work, motivated by thanking God. [passage omitted]

One is really amazed to see such greatness among all strata of the people. That would not have been possible but for the revolution and the blessings of God. Well, the people have contributed. However, as I said earlier, my principal addressees are the well-to-do, those who can give much. [passage omitted] Imam Hasan Mojtaba gave 50 percent of all his wealth for the path of God. Well, our rich may well follow suit. Are they not followers of Imam Hasan Mojtaba? [passage omitted] So, the wealthy must give; this is their duty. So much for the financial jihad, about which we fortunately have many such examples. [passage omitted]

The next problem to which we must pay attention is the intriguing negotiations by the two heads of the East and West blocs—the President of the United States and the leader of the Soviet Union. In fact, each of them heads a part of the world. Despite all their contradictions and their opposing views, they met each other, and the news agencies, the press, the newsmen, commentators, and political circles created a great clamor over this meeting. Of course, this clamor cannot influence us; we do not have the same viewpoints that others have of these meetings. However, we do have our own views, some of which I will discuss today. This is because our problems—the problem of war and the Persian Gulf, and world issues of Islam, such as Afghanistan and other places—were topics covered by these two superpower leaders. Therefore, we have a right to express our views on this and explicitly state our position.

According to reports, they had lengthy discussions, the details of which are not yet clear to us. We have no other information about them except what was published. Their discussions dealt with three subjects. The first was the issue of medium-range nuclear missiles and the dangerous nuclear arms race. The second was the issue of human rights. The third was regional crises around the world, including the Persian Gulf and the Iran-Iraq war.

We have views on all three topics. However, I do not have enough time to discuss them all. As far as the missiles are concerned, we agree that those who manufacture such weapons and use them to threaten each other—this actually being a threat against humanity—should reduce their numbers as much as possible. If these two superpowers are sincere, if they truly wish to destroy or remove these weapons—some of these weapons, that is, as they discussed two or three types of missiles—or not produce them, then we think this will benefit humanity.

However, we doubt that they will do this sincerely and that they have told the truth to each other or the world. We have bad memories of disarmament talks or nuclear arms talks between the two superpowers. Whenever they have discussed nuclear weapons, limitations, or stopping production, we have noticed that their next step was to produce a more advanced, complex, and deadly weapon. [passage omitted on SALT treaties]

They have named two or three types of missiles that are supposed to be removed from Europe and elsewhere. We think it is possible that they will remove these weapons and replace them with much more complex, dangerous,

and deadly weapons, and that the threat to humanity will continue. If this is the case, then it is grounds for serious concern. We believe the production of nuclear weapons by the world powers, particularly the two Eastern and Western superpowers, is a great crime against humanity. It is a threat. It is as if someone comes to a house where your family, your loved ones, and your wealth is, and brings a barrel full of dangerous gunpowder with a fuse that could catch a spark. The least movement would cause an explosion, killing everyone. Why do you bring this barrel here? Why do you produce such weapons? Why do you play with the very existance of humanity in your arms race? You threaten each other and, in reality, you threaten all mankind. Why? To sit around afterward and discuss the movement or removal of a few weapons from Europe or other parts of the world out of such a massive arsenal?

As we see it, this is not serious. The right thing to do is to stop producing nuclear weapons, particularly by these large powers as their production is very dangerous. Nobody should produce them and what is currently available should be removed and destroyed. A delegation should oversee this and then ensure that no more nuclear weapons are produced.

This is the first topic. As far as the second topic on human rights is concerned, this is even more of a joke. Apparently, Mr Reagan played the role of adviser to the other during these negotiations, telling him that they should observe human rights and that such rights should be observed around the world. Reagan has now become a teacher of human rights, a man whose hands are dripping with the blood of thousands of people. [passage omitted on Israeli aggression against Palestinians and on South Africa]

This Mr Reagan, who attacks the "Iran-Ajr" vessel and treats its crew to punishment, murder, and plunder and does such ridiculous and shameful things in the Persian Gulf, is now claiming to champion human rights around the world. He suggests his friends observe human rights as he does. Woe unto the world if it follows up Reagan's suggestions on human rights. It would be a calamity if the remaining world powers do the same to humanity as the United States has done. Therefore, to us this is a joke; it is ridiculous. It shows the impudence of the leaders of the oppressive world powers who are not ashamed that they are crushing nations while talking about human rights.

Now we come to the war. This matter is of more interest to us than other matters. Our question first of all is: Are you discussing the Iran-Iraq war as two outside observers? Something is happening in the world that is unrelated to them, but they are sitting together and discussing it. Is this how you are discussing our war or are you looking at it from the point of view of two powers that have an interest in the issue, consider it within their domain, and give themselves the right to interfere? Under which cloak are you discussing this issue? It seems that the second case applies because if two people sit together and discuss the war, it is nothing important. Let them sit down and talk for hours about the war.

However, these two international leaders discussed the matter as one in which they have the right to interfere and one that involves them. If this is the case, then why do you refer to it as a regional crisis? The matter of our war is not a regional one under such circumstances; it is an international issue. It is an issue created by the big international powers. This is the reality. All crises, wars, and bloodletting are created by the international powers. International powers created this war. If their support and encouragement were not present, Saddam would not have be so daring, so brave. This war would not have started, and had it started, it would not have continued.

The spokesmen for these two leaders announced that the subject of the negotiations centered on finding a quick way to end this war. Are you sincere in saying that you are looking for a way to end the war? We do not believe you are sincere in this claim. If you really wanted to end this war, then you would not have aided the aggressor, the warmonger. You are the ones who forced this aggressor to start this war. You put the sword in Saddam's hand and now, anytime you feel that he is weak, it is you who are helping him by giving him money, arms, and political power and boosting his morale to continue the war. It is you who mobilized the aggressor. How can you claim that you want to end the war? We will tell you how to end this war. If you want to end this war, then the way to do it is to punish and oppose the aggressor. [chants of "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader," and death to various named countries]

The way to end the war is to support us. We are the victims of this aggression. If the U.S. and Soviet leaders are telling the truth when they say that they want this war to end, then the way to do it is to support the Islamic Republic of Iran and say, yes, the Islamic Republic has been subjected to military violation and aggression and it should be supported. This is the solution to ending the war; this will bring the war to an end very quickly. Of course, you do not have the courage to do this. You do not have the courage to admit this truth. You are opposed to Islam and you are against Islam and you are not prepared to stand alongside Islam.

Very well, I say that if you do not have the courage to stand beside the victim of aggression, then at least do not help the aggressor. Do not continue your assistance; do not fan the flames of war. This is what is being done both by the United States and by the Soviet Union. How can you say you want to end the war when you yourselves are fanning the flames of war? If international law clearly condemns aiding the aggressor, then your actions violate international law. The resolution approved by the UN Genral Assembly in 1974 on the question of aggression—there was an elaborate discussion on this at that session, even though the UN members approved the UN Charter—was still subjected to debate and I believe that

the Article 1 of the Charter establishes the philosophy of the United Nations as one of confronting the aggressor. Morever, in the General Assembly meeting of 1974 the question of aggression, the aggressor, and the definition of aggressor was discussed and debated in detail and a statement, a resolution was issued then.

In this resolution they defined an aggressor; it said that military aggression is the worst kind of aggression. If someone attacks a country, even if it lasts for 2 days, 3 days, or 10 days, this is considered to be the worst type of international aggression. This same resolution states that any kind of aid extended to the aggressor means participation in the aggression. In other words, anyone who helps Iraq is a partner in Iraq's aggression and is condemned to the same punishment as Iraq in accordance with the UN resolution [as heard] and the United Nations General Assembly resolution. [chants of "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader"] You are now helping the aggressor, helping Iraq; you are giving it arms, money, loans. You give it political assistance and you have made the sale of arms to Iran an issue which runs counter to political interests in the world. If any government is said to have sold arms to Iran, even if that government has indeed sold arms to Iran, it is compelled to say that it has not. However, to Iraq... [Khamene'i changes thought] The sale of arms to Iraq is participation in the Iran-Iraq war as stipulated in the UN resolution. They are selling arms; they themselves are selling arms and they are encouraging others to sell arms. So you yourselves are partners in this war. How do you want to end this war? For whose benefit? For the benefit of humanity? Are you telling the truth?

In this same United Nations General Assembly resolution we find this sentence: Aggression is a crime against all humanity. That is, when a country conducts military aggression against another country, that country has not committed aggression against that country alone and has not committed a crime against that country alone but has committed a crime against all humanity. Then, following this, the whole world should unite and cooperate to crush the aggressor. In other words, today the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, Africa, and the whole world should cooperate with us in order to crush Saddam's regime. This is an international resolution. Do you accept it? If you do, then you are lying when you say you want to end the war. If you knew that continuing the war is harmful to the Islamic Republic of Iran and that the Islamic Republic may be fundamentally injured, then you would have insisted that the war continue. However, as you know that this war is not harmful to the Islamic Republic but to Saddam's regime, you know that the continuation of the war and the successive blows will make Islam victorious. This is what you oppose. In reality, you want to support the aggressor Saddam; you want to stand against the banner of right, against Islam, against the Koran.

However, I am telling the U.S. and Soviet leaders, I am informing them—if my analysis of their discussions is correct and fits their views—that we will not sit and wait for your support. By relying on the power of the Almighty and through the unity and cohesion of this nation, which was observed during these maneuvers and dispatches and will be seen even more, we will punish and crush this aggressor with our own hands and with the help of the Almighty. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khomeyni is leader" and death to various countries]

In our immense weekly gathering today there are a number of dear students from the officers' college of the Ground Forces and they are the future hope of the Armed Forces. You are young and revolutionary faces who should, God willing, make the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic in the future ever more powerful, better, and more determined. [passage omitted citing other soldiers present and closing prayers]

Larijani Cited on U.S. Presence in Gulf

NC121317 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Mohammad Javad Larijani, the deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs, participated in a political roundtable and commented on recent U.S. efforts in the United Nations to impose an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: The fate of the U.S. arms embargo will be no better than the fate of oil tankers. The Americans came to preserve regional security, but in truth, since their arrival, the number of ships hit has doubled. The vulnerability of regional countries has also increased.

During this political roundtable, the deputy chairman of the IRGC's self-sufficiency industries stated: We are now manufacturing more than five types of airplanes needed by the IRGC Air Force. So far, three of these planes have carried out successful trial flights and, God willing, will soon be used on the war fronts.

This political roundtable will be broadcast at 2045 [1715 GMT] tonight on Channel Two of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Velayati Returns From Pakistan, Comments

NC130719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, who went to Pakistan on a 3-day visit at the head of a delegation for talks with Pakistani officials, returned to Tehran this morning.

Commenting on the outcome of his visit in an interview with our correspondent, Mr Velayati said: During this visit discussions were held on political, economic, cultural, consular, and border affairs, and a memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries. He added: With the signing of the border protocol, many of the two countries' border problems will be solved.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, please tell the people about your 3-day visit to Pakistan and the positive results of this visit.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The visit to the fraternal, friendly, and Islamic country of Pakistan was at the invitation of Mr Noorani, the new Pakistani foreign minister. During this visit, the honorable deputy interior minister, a member of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee, several of our colleagues from the Foreign Ministry, and the honorable deputy minister of Islamic guidance accompanied the delegation. The composition of the delegation indicates that our talks were comprehensive and covered political, economic, cultural, consular, and border issues.

Immediately after our arrival, we met with the foreign minister. Later, the experts split up among the various committees to conduct their discussions. During my second meeting with the Pakistani foreign minister yesterday, we summed up the activities of the committees. This ultimately led to the signing of the memorandum of understanding during the last hours of our stay in Pakistan.

Most important was the signing of a border agreement between Iran and Pakistan. The two countries started work on this about 2 years ago and this had been approved here by the honorable Cabinet. The agreement was signed today [as heard] by our deputy interior minister and his Pakistani counterpart. On the basis of this agreement in fact, many of the problems that currently exist on our borders with Pakistan, as far as smugglers and the secret passage of unauthorized persons are concerned, will be solved.

During our stay, we had meetings with Mr Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister Junejo, and Pakistan's Senate Chairman Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

On the whole, we consider this to have been a successful visit because discussions were held on all our common problems concerning bilateral as well as regional and international matters. We reached good agreements which, as I have already said, were later signed within the framework of a memorandum of understanding.

[Correspondent] Would you please comment on the contents of this memorandum of understanding?

[Velayati] Specifically, areas of economic and commercial cooperation which had been previously noted were formulated in a more practical way in this memorandum. For example, the daily volume of cargo shipped from Pakistan to Iran has been specified in the memorandum. Provision was also made for a visit to Pakistan by an Iranian oil delegation in the near future, and for a visit by a Pakistani industrial delegation to Tehran. In addition, we reached a good level of understanding in cultural cooperation, given that our two countries have much in common. Progress has been made in overcoming the consular problems that exist between the two countries, and we have reached acceptable common points. Many of these areas are covered in the memorandum of understanding which was signed by the Pakistani foreign minister and myself.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Velayati] You are welcome. [end recording]

Kharrazi Discusses Weapons, CW Production

LD121810 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi said today that Iran learned a valuable lesson in the course of the Islamic revolution, that enemies will only be forced to flee or withdraw through firm resistance. "We are using the same tactics in the Persian Gulf now," he added.

Kharrazi speaking to students of Martyr Ayatollah Beheshti University here, said resistance of the Muslim combatants coupled with their reprisal blows have so far inflicted heavy losses on the U.S.

The extreme discord in the Reagan administration which led to the dismissal of several key U.S. officials, is a sure testimony to the resolve and devotion of the Iranian nation, he said.

The WIH head referring to the situation of the Iraqi regime, said today Baghdad has turned into a center of hypocrisy in the region for those lackeys who once boasted of fighting the Zionist regime and breaking ties with the Egyptian regime.

World arrogance's support for Saddam (Iraqi ruler) stems from the same reason, pointed Kharrazi adding, they (arrogant powers) are vainly trying to use the Iraqi regime as a barricade for slowing down the imminent spread of the Islamic revolution in the region.

Kharrazi then dwelt on Iran's capability in manufacturing advanced weapons and said Iranian officials laid particular stress on self-sufficiency in military industries since the outset of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Iran's military industries are rapidly progressing hand in hand with political and military moves, to the extent that achievements have astonished the world, because this level of capability is beyond expectation for a third world country, said Kharrazi. The fact Iran will soon reach self-sufficiency in manufacture of advanced missiles and other equipment, has made the foes of the revolution scared stiff, he added.

He also said that the Islamic Republic is capable of mass-producing chemical weapons, but Iran does not deploy them out of respect for Islamic and humanitarian

considerations. "We have time and again called on international circles to prevent the Iraqi regime from using these lethal weapons," he concluded.

Iraqi Muslims Clash With Regime's Forces

LD121134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The Iraqi regime's difficulties in confronting the daily increasing struggles of the Muslim Iraqi people is the content of another report to which we now draw your attention:

According to a Central News Unit report, the escalation of the struggles of the Muslim people of Iraq against the regime has forced the Iraqi security forces to mobilize all their resources. This has presented the regime with some serious problems because changes of security agents and an intensification of security measures have not brought much success to the Baghdad rulers. On the basis of some reports, the Muslim people of Iraq, continuing their struggles against the regime, carried out extensive protests in most of the educational and cultural centers of Iraq, particularly by the students and in several cases even lecturers and school teachers.

This is taking place at a time when control of these schools by the mercenary agents of the regime in the city of Baghdad has intensified. A report received on this subject by the Secretariat of the Conference of Solidarity With the People of Iraq states: In the course of the past week, most regions of Baghdad, including Rahmaniyyah, Al-Dawrah, Malawi, and Salahiyyah, were the scenes of clashes between revolutionary Muslims and armed agents of the ruling regime.

There is no precise information about the level of losses inflicted on the enemy during these clashes, but revolutionary Muslims, after carrying out the missions assigned to them, returned safely to their base.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

REUTERS Cited on Cypriot Tanker

LD121054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] REUTERS, quoting shipping sources in the region, reports: A Cypriot supertanker was the target of attacks by gunboats this morning in the southern Persian Gulf. The tanker was set afire.

According to this report, the attack on the 232,164-tonne tanker "Pivot" which had loaded at Ras' al Tanurah port in Saudi Arabia, took place at 1020 hours local time of the coast of Dubayy. There is no report on possible casualties or the damage inflicted on the oil tanker.

Tanker Ablaze, Losing Oil

LD121802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] According to shipping sources in the Persian Gulf, following the attack by a gunboat on a massive Cypriot oil tanker, the vessel is burning in the southern Persian Gulf. According to an AP report from Manama, the 232,164-ton vessel "Pivot" was carrying Saudi Arabian oil and heading toward the Strait of Hormuz. According to regional shipping sources, oil is gushing from two segments of the vessel's port side, and it is burning. Agency reports indicate that all crew members were saved.

Communique No 3,047

LD111605 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—Iranian long range artillery fire started a 24-hour shelling of eco-industrial centers of some Iraqi cities from 08:00 hours local time (04:30 gmt) Friday, as a hit-back against recent Iraqi bombing of civilian areas in Iran.

Announcing the above here today, the 3047th Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian naval gunboats intercepted and searched five cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of the Iranian cities of Sanandaj, Hamadan and (Islamabad-e Gharb) Thursday afternoon but were repelled by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire before carrying out any bombing mission.

Farms of 'Deh-e Now' village on the outskirts of Saqqez, Kordestan Province were set afire and villagers suffered heavy losses in an Iraqi air attack Thursday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the battlefields Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd and Kushk, southern sector, where two Iraqi tanks and several gun emplacements were destroyed and their crews killed.

Iranian artillery fire routed several Iraqi patrol convoys around Sumar and Chegha Hammam, western fronts, Thursday, killing or wounding a number of enemy patrols.

A number of Iraqi soldeirs were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and two vehicles were destroyed in parts of the western and southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Thursday.

In Mehran, Helaleh and west of Jofeyr, western sector, Iranian artillery fire checked movement of Iraqi motorized columns and enemy relocation activities Thursday, inflicting heavy losses on them.

Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from digging canals or setting up barricades in Chazabeh, Yebis, Eynkhosh and Hoseyniyeh, southern fronts, Thursday, the comunique said.

Iraqi Kurdish Operations Noted

LD111758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports by the Ramadan Headquarters for unconventional warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, the forces of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurds over the last week destroyed a number of high tension power supports in the (Imadiyyah) city districts in Dahuk Province in Iraq, plunging parts of this province into total darkness, including the cities of (Imadiyyah) and Sarsang.

This report also says that in several ambush operations on the Dahuk to Sarsang and Salemiyeh to Irbil roads, forces of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurds killed two Ba'thist-Iraqi soldiers and captured eight others. This report also says the struggling Iraqi Kurds over the past few days conducted ambush operations, destroying 2 Iraqi military vehicles and their crews and killing 11 Saddamists, among whom were 2 Ba'thist Iraqi Army officers.

Further on Kurdish Operations

LD112007 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The General Staff of the three branches of the IRGC has announced that the commandos of the 65th Hejrat Brigade of the Ground Forces of the IRGC, under the command of Ramadan Headquarters, in cooperation with the Hezbollah forces of Iraqi Kurdistan, carried out a series of destructive operations in the last few days and succeeded in infiltrating the cities of (Suri) and (Gilakiyyah) in Iraq's Mawsil Province. While destroying [words indistinct] military bases and one inspection center of the Ba'thist forces, they set ablaze two (?economic) centers in those cities. In these operations a large number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and several light and heavy weapons and also one anti-air unit and one Katyusha belonging to the enemy were destroyed by the combatants of Islam.

Artillery Shells Iraqi Sites

LD111742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The General Staff of the three forces of the IRGC has announced: In retaliation for the mischievous acts by the Zionist enemy over the past 2 days in attacking nonmilitary targets in our country, the powerful artillery of the Ground Forces of the IRGC began early this morning to bring military, economic, and industrial installations in Basra, Al-Zubayr, Al-'Amarah, (Zaydiyyah), and Umm Qasr jetty under heavy fire, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

Iraqi Areas East of Tigris Shelled

LD111952 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Dec. 11, IRNA—Muslim combatants pounded enemy positions and fortifications east of Tigris River in the past 24 hours destroying a command jeep, two trucks and ten bunkers and killing several Iraqi Ba'thists.

Iranian forces also shelled enemy supply routes and communication canals and checked enemy engineering activities.

Exchange of artillery fire along southern fronts continued with the superiority of Muslim combatants. Several enemy armored convoys and positions around salt plant west of Al-Faw, east of Basra as well as military Al-Faw-Basra, Al-Faw-Abu Al-Khasib roads and Basra-Al-'Amarah freeway sustained damage.

Aircraft Bomb Al-'Amarah

LD120826 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec 12, IRNA—Iran's fighter bombers heavily pounded Iraqi artillery positions in Al-'Amarah Province, southern Iraq, at 0820 hours local time (0450 GMT) Saturday.

A Joint Staff Command statement issued here said that all of the fighter bombers had returned safely to their bases.

Kurdish Villages in Dohuk Bombed

LD121352 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Dec. 12, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed five Kurdish-populated villages in Dohuk Province, northern Iraq, on Decemmber 1 and 2, wounding three women and destroying a large number of houses.

According to reports reaching here from inside Iraq, the Ba'thist regime's long range artillery fire also shelled residential areas of eight other villages in Dohuk Province last week, causing heavy damage to property.

Peshmergas Kill 21 Iraqis in Irbil

LD121544 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Iraqi Kurdish Peshmergas killed 12 Iraqi mercenaries in three separate mining operations in northeastern Irbil Province, last week, said a military communique here Saturday.

The communique, released by Ramadan headquarters, said the corpses of an Iraqi security officer and two officials of the outlawed anti-revolutionary MKO (Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization) group were seen among the killed.

In separate operations, the Peshmergas raided an asphalt plant in Diyanah, in Irbil Province last week, killing or wounding 15 Iraqi soldiers and returning safely to bases, the communique said.

Ramadan Headquarters is the guerrilla warfare center of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC)

Communique No 3,048

LD121743 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed positions of Iraqi artillery units in Al-'Amarah, eastern Iraq, at 08:20 hours local time (04:50 GMT) Saturday, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. The fighters returned safely to bases.

Announcing the above, the 3048th Joint Staff Communique reported here Saturday that Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and inspected six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard them.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces heavily traded artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday, destroying several group bunkers and checking enemy engineering operations.

A number of Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Mehran, Qasr-e Shirin and Chazabeh, western and southern sectors, Friday sustained heavy casualties and losses and were forced to flee.

In Panjwin, northwestern sector, Iranian artillery fire pounded an Iraqi tank Squadron Friday, inflicting heavy losses and silencing its fire.

Heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Panjwin, Helaleh and Qal'Avizan [name as received], western and northwestern fronts Friday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,049

LD131555 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec 13, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched eight cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage since there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, said a military communique here Sunday.

In its 3049th daily communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Saturday, destroying six enemy gun emplacements and a command jeep and killing all their crew members.

Iran's Muslim combatants pounded Iraqi troop concentration sites in Helaleh, western sector, Saturday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on enemy forces.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi tanks and silenced enemy fire in Panjwin, Nahr 'Anbar, Yebis and Eynkhosh war theaters Saturday.

Enemy's attempts to reinforce its badly-beaten troops in Jassan, Badra, Zurbatiyah, Tib and Zobeydah, northwestern and southern sectors, by moving its motorized units were foiled Saturday by Iranian artillery fire. Consequently enemy troops sustained heavy losses.

The artillery fire of Iran's Muslim forces prevented Iraqi engineering units from removing parts of their barbed-wire fences in Helaleh, western sector, Saturday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Iran's Velayati Continues Official Visit

Meets Junejo, Noorani

BK111655 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] The Iranian delegation headed by its foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, which is now on a visit to Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi this evening. He exchanged views with the prime minister on matters of bilateral interest. Later, the prime minister hosted a dinner in honor of the delegation.

Matters to increase economic cooperation between Pakistan and Iran were discussed at a meeting in Islamabad today. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, and the Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, headed their delegations. They also agreed to improve the communications system, exchange cultural groups and sports teams between the two countries.

Discusses Afghanistan, Gulf

LD111836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Text] We have a report on the foreign minister's trip to Pakistan to which we now draw your attention:

Foreign Minister Velayati, who is heading a high-ranking political, cultural, and economic delegation on a visit to Pakistan, participated in a medical conference in Lahore and then returned to Islamabad.

At Islamabad airport he was met by Zain Noorani, Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs. The second round of talks between the two countries' high-ranking delegations then began. It was chaired by the two foreign ministers. In this round of talks, the Pakistani minister pointed to the common Islamic and cultural ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and called for expanding bilateral relations. He referred to the question of Afghanistan and said: Taking note of the importance of the Islamic Republic's role in this connection, we are eager to cooperate with the Islamic Republic on the Afghanistan issue. The Pakistani minister also delivered a report on the latest developments in the South Asian region and on the recent SAARC meeting.

In this session, our country's foreign minister noted the expanding relations and increased economic cooperation between the two Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. He then added: Our relations, despite the conspiracies of enemies, continue to expand.

Noting the presence of volunteer forces and the public mobilization in our country, Mr Velayati said: We have informed the United Nations and the UN secretary general about the Islamic Republic's policies with regard to Security Council Resolution 598 and the issue of naming the Iraqi regime as the aggressor. Mr Velayati assessed the Persian Gulf situation following the invitation extended by Kuwait to the United States and the military presence of that country in this region. He said: We believe that the Persian Gulf's security will be maintained by the countries in this sensitive area through cooperation. The presence of foreign forces will only aggravate the tense situation. With regard to Afghanistan, the foreign minister stated: In this session, political, cultural, (?consular), and economic committees of the two countries met to exchange ideas. Mr Velayati met tonight with Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, a meeting which is still continuing.

Meets With Ziaul Haq

BK121202 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad this afternoon. He was accompanied by members of his delegation.

The president briefed the Iranian foreign minister on the Afghanistan situation, and the Iranian minister briefed the president on the Iran-Iraq war. They welcomed the signing of the protocol today between Pakistan and Iran on border affairs. The president expressed the hope that there would be a solution to the Iran-Iraq war and there would be peace throughout the Islamic world.

Border Protocol Signed

LD121755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Here is a report on the meeting between our minister of foreign affairs and the Pakistani president: Our country's Foreign Minister, Mr Velayati, met with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq at noon today. At this meeting, the two sides discussed mutual relations, the imposed war, the Afghanistan issue, and other important international developments. Our foreign minister also relayed President Khamene'i's greetings. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have developed their relations in many fields, more than ever before.

The Pakistani president then stated that he hoped to be able to visit Iran, which he praised for its stance on Afghanistan. He said: The Afghan mujahidin are more successful now than ever before.

After this meeting, Iran's delegation attended a luncheon where a number of ministers and high-ranking officials from that country were present. Before leaving Islamabad for Tehran tonight, Mr Velayati attended a news conference with foreign correspondents and described his negotiations with Pakistani officials as very successful.

At the end of our delegation's visit to Pakistan, a protocol on border issues was signed by the under secretaries of interior of Iran and Pakistan.

Addresses News Conference

LD121941 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 12, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today that during his talks with Pakistani officials there was a common understanding between the two sides that the task of protecting security of the Persian Gulf should rest solely with littoral states.

Velayati addressing a press conference prior to his departure for Tehran, said that wherever the Persian Gulf issue is discussed the fact that its security concerns only the littoral countries should be upheld.

Asked about the role of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Velayati replied that positions so far taken by the OIC secretary-general Sharifuddin Pirzada on the Iraqi-imposed were positive. Of course, he said, this does not necessarily mean that positions of all OIC member states are positive.

In response to a question on the likelihood of an arms embargo on Iran, the foreign minister answered that the Islamic Republic has been under arms sanctions since the start of the Iraqi aggression and that no countries could now officially claim that they had exported weapons to Iran.

Velayati, saying that the Islamic Republic is the least bothered in this regard, said that the proposal to impose arms embargo on Iran are merely meant for propaganda consumption, since "Iran has either produced most of its needed arms over the past seven years domestically, or seized on the battlefields and the free markets."

In reply to a question about the Islamic Republic's reflection to U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's statement that his efforts to end the conflict have been deadlocked, Velayati said Iran believes that the war has been imposed by a regime which understands no language but that of force.

But, noted Velayati, certain international circles, like the United Nations, believed that there was a more simple and shorter way to confront the aggressor, other than the war and thought of political negotiations.

The Islamic Republic welcomed the U.N. chief's efforts concerning the Iraqi-imposed war in order to give a chance to those who hoped for a peaceful solution, he said.

Today, Velayati said, Iran's belief that the Iraqi regime would refuse to accept any honorable solutions, have been proved. Iran is firmly resolved to resist the aggressor, he added.

The foreign minister, however, noted that the Islamic Republic attaches great importance to Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts on finding a just and honorable solution to the Iraqi-imposed war.

If international circles are concerned over the U.N. chief's statements they should show proper reflection to the obstacles created by the Iraqi regime in the way of Perez de Cuellar's peaceful efforts, he said.

On the likelihood of the U.N. Assistant Secretary General Diego Cordovez's visit to the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Iranian foreign minister reitrated that Iran has always briefed Cordovez on its clear view on the Afghan issue.

Sri Lanka

Indian Sources Refute Statement on Death Toll

BK131612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 87

[Text] Official sources in New Delhi have described as incorrect the death toll of Indian soldiers mentioned in the reported statement of the Sri Lankan president. The sources said since the peacekeeping force began its operations, 319 personnel have been killed and 1,042 injured so far; 12 Indian personnel were also missing. Of the injured, more than 40 percent have been discharged from the hospitals. They are either returning or have already returned to their units.

LANKA PUWATH Carries Roundup of IPKF Action

BK130910 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0851 GMT 13 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (LANKA PUWATH)—Forty one (41) LTTE terrorists were captured yesterday by the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF) in Jaffna.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that 35 LTTE cadres were captured at Achchuveli while 6 were apprehended during a search operation at Arali north.

A report from Batticaloa states that IPKF had thrown a dragnet to apprehend the LTTE Batticaloa town leader, code named "Sitta" who, according to intelligence reports, was hiding in the vicinity of the Batticaloa airport.

Detonators and explosives were seized by IPKF in a raid on terrorists hideouts at Navatkuli, Jaffna, yesterday.

A senior LTTE commander, code name Capt. Bharat, who was wounded during an LTTE clash with the IPKF in the Kokkuvil/Konduvil area in Jaffna committed suicide last Friday by swallowing a cyanide capsule.

Bharat was reported to have been controlling operations of 5 LTTE squads, each comprising 15 cadres in the Mulai area in Jaffna.

The IPKF had also launched operations to clear pockets of LTTE terrorists in Valachchenai, Vadamuna (off Kiran) and Karunakuda where the inhabitants were being terrorised by LTTE cadres led by Karuna and Deelappan.

A report from Vavuniya states 2 LTTE terrorists were kidnapped by TELO along with their weapons, 2 T-56 guns, 6 38-grenades and a walkie talkie.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that at Mannar the LTTE had kidnapped 2 Muslims—Jihan Casim and a friend accompanying him.

A report from Trincomalee states that LTTE terrorists hijacked a truck at Tampalakamam.

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